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Columnist on 'Focus' of U.S. Asia Policy

BK1811051991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Nov 91 p A10

[By Nick Keyes: "US's Obsolete Asian Policy Stalled"]

[Text] Even before he decided to stay at home, many Asian leaders were feeling miffed at the scope of U.S. President George Bush's planned trip to the region late this month. Already, some countries had been ruled out, and the itinerary for other destinations had been trimmed down.

For this reason and others, the American leader's decision on Nov 6 to postpone indefinitely the trip to Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Australia seemed to many like a stunning case of bad timing. The announcement brought a question that had been much debated straight to the fore: Does this U.S. administration have a strong policy direction towards Asia? Or for that matter, a real interest in the region at all?

The answers, it would seem, are no and maybe. And any more active role for the United States in Asia is highly unlikely for the remainder of George Bush's first term in office, and probably beyond that.

As an old-school member of the U.S. establishment, it is not suprising that Bush is wrapped up with Europe, the Soviet Union, and the Middle East. These regions have allowed him to take part in momentous, historic events as the self-appointed defender of democracy and the engineer of a "new world order" —a sort of successor to Woodrow Wilson.

But this preoccupation on the part of Bush, Secretary of State James Baker and other members of the Bush administration has come at a price to the United States: It has kept links and contact between the U.S. and Asia from developing at a time when Asia is becoming the most dynamic region in the world.

Despite the statements of his aides to the contrary, it is clear that Bush's decision to postpone the trip was primarily based on domestic political concerns, particularly following savage criticism by the Democratic Party of his trips abroad during a recession.

The domestic pressure was obvious in the way the president talked about his decision, saying that "The trip has been postponed, not cancelled. It does have some very important aspects, particularly the Japanese leg, as it affects jobs for America."

About one week later, in a speech to the Asia Society in New York on Nov 12, Bush tried to assuage the fears of many in the region that the U.S. had turned away from Asia, saying he was "deeply committed to building closer ties" with nations in the region.

Similarly, in Tokyo earlier in the week, James Baker worked to ease Japanese anger over the cancelled trip. "America's destiny lies across the Pacific as well as the Atlantic, he said in a speech last Monday, noting that U.S. trade with the Asia-Pacific nations was one-third larger than that with Europe.

"The United States exports more to Thailand than to the Soviet Union, more to Indonesia than to Central and Eastern Europe and more to Singapore than to Spain or Italy," he pointed out.

Baker also reiterated that the U.S. considered Japan "our most important bilateral association in the world, bar none," particularly as the economies of the two countries now make up almost 40 percent of world GNP.

However, soon after his speech, observers pointed out that in almost three years as secretary of state under Bush, Baker had previously spent a grand total of one night in Tokyo, the capital of this "most important" ally.

There are concerns among leaders in both countries that U.S.-Japanese relations are in danger of not developing much beyond a slanging match over trade issues and complaining about "structural impediments" in each others' economies. A group of prominent U.S. business leaders and former government officials has called for the creation of a "Pacific Charter" that would set out goals for U.S.-Japanese economic, security and technology cooperation for the betterment of the Pacific rim in the same way the Atlantic Charter was drawn up following World War II.

However, there was nothing in Baker's or Bush's speeches to suggest such visionary thinking about relations with Japan or Asia as a whole. And without concrete proposals, mutual dependencies will militate against a change in relations.

For example, Baker criticized Japan for "checkbook diplomacy" and using international pressure as an excuse when taking any sort of controversial position in international forums. Yet Washington has come to depend on Japan fulfilling just this role, with the Gulf War and Cambodia being two prominent examples, and it is unlikely that Baker would make the same argument if the Japanese were to break away from the American line on controversial international issues.

At the heart of present U.S. thinking about Asia is an apparent fear of trying to "fix what isn't broken," the insistence on "prudence" that Bush was so criticized for before the Gulf War. However, prudence is hardly an adequate response to events in a region that is changing so fast even local observers have a hard time keeping up.

This sort of thinking is clearly seen in the U.S. policy towards China. While Washington continues to castigate Beijing for human-rights abuses, no concrete action is taken to express this disapproval for fear of endangering a strategic relationship, and contacts are maintained at a relatively high level. "Prudence" in this case means inconsistency, and Bush as a one-time envoy to Beijing should certainly know that in Asia, consistency counts.

In South Asia, the US continues to stay close to Pakistan despite conflicts over that country's nuclear weapons-development programme. Meanwhile, development of closer ties with India remains slow even though India is probably more open to enhanced relations with the US than at any time in the past two decades. The result is that while most other parts of the world are redefining relationship, the Cold War balance remains in the subcontinent.

But perhaps the country that is seeing the most absurd result of the US focus on the status quo is Thailand. US policy at this point is reduced to repeating the hope for an "early return to democracy," while to most local observers it seems given that the only "democracy" Thailand is fated to see in the near future is a farcical one that has all of the form of popular rule and none of the substance.

To many in Thailand, the continuation in power of the Anan administration would be a quicker route to true democracy than imminent elections. But no one in Washington seems to understand this. If Thailand truly is a bigger market for the US than the Soviet Union, perhaps it deserves closer scrutiny in the future.

Both Bush and Baker in their speeches also tried to reassure their respective audiences that the US was in no way ready to scale back its security commitments in Asia. "While we will make adjustments in our military posture to fit changing circumstances, we intend to firmly maintain our alliance relationship and our forward-deployed forces," Baker said.

However, neither leader provided any new proposals for pan-Asian security. This while it is becoming ever clearer that outside of Japan few leaders in the region see an indefinite US presence as the answer to keeping the peace. Increasingly, countries in the region are looking to the day when security is guarded through regional frameworks and cooperation.

There is little indication that Washington is thinking that far ahead. The US has quashed an Australian proposal for a regional security forum. But as recent events in the Philippines have shown, if America is not willing to take into account local realities, decisions will be made for it.

There is a fear among many Asian leaders, especially in Japan, that isolationists are gaining ground in America to the point that the US will eventually turn away from its global commitments. The greater possibility at this point seems to be that by continuing to insist on the status quo, Washington will make itself increasingly irrelevant.

Still, there is obviously some new thinking going on in Washington as far as Asia is concerned; the most notable example of which is an increasing willingness to end the era of hostility with Indochina. The arrival of a US ambassador in Phnom Penh last week was only the latest positive result of the US working in concert with the other permanent members of the UN Security Council to bring about a comprehensive political settlement and peace in Cambodia.

In Tokyo, Baker noted that the multilateral approach had worked well for Cambodia and suggested that it be applied again for the conflict between the two Koreas, with the US working with China, Japan and the Soviet Union to bring the two sides closer together and ward off nuclear proliferation on the Korean peninsula.

These issues, however, seem to be the exceptions. On the whole, Washington does not appear to be in the habit of thinking multilaterally when it comes to Asia, with the obvious exception of dealings with Asean. Bilateral relations are reviewed separately, with little thought given to how the US role can adapt to the ever-changing region as a whole.

Baker said at the end of his speech in Tokyo that "I want to leave no doubt that the United States is fully committed to working with Japan and others in the region to shape a new era in world affairs, and a new order in Asia." But at this point it is quite unclear what Washington's idea of a "new order" in the region might be.

In a recent issue, the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW reported that "some Asian diplomats sense that what they are discussing with their counterparts in the State Department is not reaching the top levels of the Bush administration." Surely this region deserves more attention, at least so that policy is not left to be executed by diplomats and mid-level officials who seem to have been given little guidance except to "stay the course".

Thai Foreign Minister Addresses APEC Meeting

BK1611065891 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said Thailand wishes to see ASEAN able to contribute to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, effectively. In his address at the third APEC ministerial meeting in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, Mr. Asa said the strengthening of ASEAN, among which is the establishment of an ASEAN free trade area within the next 15 years, should enhance APEC's objective in seeking to maximize its positive gains resulting from increasing economic interdependence.

He said the recent annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF in Bangkok painted a cautiously optimistic outlook of the world economy in the medium term. The dynamic economies of the APEC members, he said, should be a prominent role in sustaining growth and enhancing development in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Asa called on APEC members to work together on ways and means to resolve problems concerning economic disparities, social injustice, and environmental degradation.

He pointed out that recent changes in the global political and economic landscape showed that APEC is correct in pursuing its main objective of developing and promoting the open multilateral trading system. The immediate aim of APEC is to achieve a successful and balanced conclusion of the Uruguay Round by the end of this year.

The three-day APEC ministerial meeting was concluded on Thursday. Thailand was among the fifteen countries participating in the meeting.

Thai Minister Addresses APEC Closing Session

BK1611083191 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Closing remarks presented by Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Seoul on 14 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Mr. Chairman, after two days of hard work, we can all leave Seoul with a strong sense of satisfaction. Under your able leadership, substantive progress in the past year has clearly been accomplished. I wish therefore to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for your tireless efforts in bringing about these achievements. That representatives of fifteen economies come together at this historic meeting over the last two days is indeed a powerful statement in itself. That other Asia-Pacific economies express their interest to join APEC further illustrates APEC's relevance and great potentials. It also reflects the present prevailing trends in international relations.

There has been a remarkable change in the perception of the requirement of national or even regional security. Military strength alone is no longer a singular guarantee for peace and stability of a nation or a region. Increasingly recognized are the trends that, through cooperative ties based on mutual benefits, will peace and prosperity be realized and maintained. Secretary Baker yesterday reaffirmed the United States commitment to the Asia-Pacific region. There are encouraging signs of progress in the Korean Peninsula talks. Prince Sihanouk today is making a historic homecoming to Phnom Penh following the signing of the Cambodian peace agreement last October. Southeast Asia is now given the opportunity to work together to ensure that peace will be durable and bring with it tangible benefits and well-being to our peoples in the region. In this connection, support and cooperation extended to the non-Asian countries in Southeast Asia would enable them to realize their potentials which would in turn contribute to the overall objectives of APEC.

Yesterday and this morning, a number of ministers reported on progress made in the area of human resources development. I strongly believed that this area of cooperation is an important factor to bridge economic disparity. I mentioned in my opening remarks yesterday it would contribute towards a better quality of life in the respective societies as well as those of our neighboring countries which are not yet APEC members. As host to the next APEC ministerial meeting, Thailand looks forward to doing all it can to attain the APEC objectives. The tasks assigned to our senior officials, or some of the most important issues, are waiting political decisions at the next APEC ministerial meeting in Bangkok. Thailand's tasks as chairman will be eased by the cooperation of every member whose common objective is to uphold and promote the open multilateral trading system and trade liberalization. Thailand looks forward to welcoming you all. Many of you are well aware that Bangkok can never offer a room with a mountain view as Seoul. Our traffic tends to put a little more inconvenience [as received]. We will nevertheless try to map this splendid arrangement set by the government of the Republic of Korea. The welcome from the smiling Thais will be equally warm and cordial.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to conclude my remarks by expressing once again the sincere appreciation to the government and the people of the Republic of Korea, and you in particular, for the flawless arrangements and warm hospitality accorded to all of us throughout our stay in Seoul. Through you, we would also like to thank each of everyone of your staff as well as the translators whose names we may never know but have worked tirelessly behind the scene. Without them, our conference would not have been so smooth. Thank you and see you again in Bangkok next year.

Thai Commerce Minister on Rice Markets, Sanctions

BK1611030991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Nov 91 p 13

[by Peter Mitri Ungphakon]

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on succeeded in having two key points included in the APEC declaration on the Uruguay Round, even though the meeting in Seoul has been described as a victory for the United States, Canada and Australia, according to Thai officials.

Mr Amaret persuaded ministers from the 15-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group to emphasise two points of special concern to Thailand: the need for Japan and South Korea to open up their rice markets, and criticism of the United States' threat of unilateral sanctions against countries accused of violating intellectual property rights or of trading unfairly in other ways.

The first concern, according to the sources, was expressed in a paragraph stressing the need for further moves towards liberalising agriculture. This was aimed at the Japanese and South Koreans—both members of APEC—as well as at the European Community's reluctance to reduce its agricultural protection and support.

The second point was made in a reference to the APEC declaration issued in Singapore last year in which the group's members pledged a commitment to international trading rules. This is a shorthand criticism of the United

States' use of unilateral actions against its trading partners such as Section 301 of US trade law, the Thai sources said.

At first neither of these points was mentioned in the draft declaration on the Uruguay Round, issued in Seoul yesterday during the final session of the APEC ministerial meeting, the officials said.

The final statement said the Uruguay Round of world trade talks, now in one of the most crucial weeks of its five-year-old history, is the most important economic issue facing the world.

The ministers from ASEAN, South Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand pledged to negotiate flexibly in the round and called for agreement by the end of the year on substantial liberalisation in both goods and services.

After five years of near-deadlock on reform of agricultural trade, observers say a breakthrough is genuinely possible after last weekend's meetings in The Hague between US President George Bush and European leaders.

Ironically, South Korea, which hosted this year's ministerial meeting, apparently remains one of the staunchest opponents of allowing greater access for farm products—in South Korea's case this would mean ending Seoul's rice import ban. After years of resistance, Japan now appears to be yielding on this issue.

APEC as a whole covers a number of different positions in the round, with ASEAN and other less-developed members seeking liberalisation in agriculture and textiles and garments, while the developed country members want liberalisation in services and greater protection for intellectual property.

"Ministers declared a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round to be the most critical issue facing the international community," said APEC's statement.

The ministers stressed that "a major and significant" outcome would be needed to strengthen the growth of world trade and to ward off protectionism. Market confidence would also improve and economic reform in the region and elsewhere would be encouraged, APEC's statement said.

"Ministers welcomed recent signs of movement in key areas of the negotiations and called for further progress in agriculture, textiles and clothing, services, market access, rule-making and intellectual property, leading to a balanced, comprehensive and substantial result," one of the passages hailed by Thai officials said.

APEC said its members will show flexibility to ensure that agreement can be reached by the end of this year. The ministers said they will tell their negotiators in Geneva, where most of the Uruguay Round talks are being held, "to return to the negotiating table with renewed vigour and to work with each other and their trading partners outside the region to produce a bold and forward-looking result".

Representing Thailand in the talks was Mr Amaret. Others present included US Trade Representative Carla Hills and US Secretary of State James Baker.

Japan

Okinawa LDP Members Demand U.S. 'Remove' Base

OW1911015491 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 19 Nov 91 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Tokyo—Representatives of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Okinawa Prefectural Federation visited Parliamentary Vice Minister of Defense Agency Hirohide Uozumi on 18 November, and made an appeal to him on the issue of the bases. With regard to the consolidation and retrenchment of U.S. military bases, Vice Minister Uozumi expressed the view that "a solution to the problem is necessary even from the point of view of development." As to the relocation of the urban combat training facility, the LDP Prefectural Federation demanded its removal instead of relocation. Vice Minister Uozumi limited his reply, saying that the issue is "being studied." This was the first time that the LDP Prefectural Federation has demanded the removal of the facility, and the government will be under pressure to come up with some sort of response.

Concerning the urban combat training facility, the U.S. forces, the prefecture, and the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau reached an agreement during the former Nishime administration to relocate the present facility by the end of March 1992. The Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA] has also allocated more than 200 million yen for relocation expenses in the fiscal 1991 budget. However, after the Ota reformist administration come into power, the Okinawan Government has changed its policy to demanding the "removal" of the facility. For this reason, the DFAA is having a difficult time deciding on a new site. At present, several locations, including the Yafuso District in Onna Village inside Camp Hansen, are being considered.

In Onna Village, the village assembly and a general meeting of residents have already voiced their demand for "removal." The LDP Prefectural Federation, which was the ruling party during the Nishime administration, has thus taken a further step in clarifying its position in favor of "removal."

Official on Okinawa Port Return, U.S. Exercises

OW1711021091 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 16 Nov 91 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Tokyo—Koichiro Matsuura, chief of the Foreign Ministry's North American Affairs Bureau, disclosed on 15 November that he discussed with Pentagon officials issues such as the return of a U.S. military port complex in Naha City at a bureau chief-level conference held during his visit to the United States between 30 October and 1 November. He then indicated that he would bring up the issue of the return of the port at the session of "the Consultative Committee on Japanese-U.S. Security," a Japanese-U.S. ministerial-level conference. He made these remarks in answering questions from Kosuke Uehara of the Socialist Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ].

Regarding the issue returning the port, Naha Mayor Kosei Oyadomari made a "direct appeal" when he met with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State L. Desaix Anderson during his visit to the United States from late September to October. When Deputy Assistant Secretary Anderson visited Japan for preparations for President Bush's visit here, he met with Bureau Chief Matsuura and reconfirmed that they would continue to discuss the issue despite the fact that Naha port was not included in the accord on the return of some facilities, which was reached between Japan and the United States last June.

It is said that partial return of the port may lead to the need to review the return agreement itself, which was reached under the condition that the facilities will be transferred to other sites. The issue of the port's return will have a great impact on such issues as the reduction, consolidation, and return of military bases.

Diet member Uehara also asked Bureau Chief Matusura and Director General Kazuo Fujii of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency to investigate the accident that took place 12 November on Ie Island, in which a U.S. aircraft dropped cargo outside the training area, and the noise pollution caused by the LORE [Local Operational Readiness Exercise] exercise at Kadena Air Base beginning on 13 November. He requested that the exercise be suspended immediately. However, both the bureau chief and the director general maintained the previous stance, stating that they were not in a position to ask for the suspension of the exercise, because it concerns U.S. military operations. Nevertheless, referring to the LORE exercise, Director General Fujii said that he would ask the U.S. forces to refrain from conducting exercises at night if possible.

Prime Minister on Command Over Japan's UN Unit

OW1911073891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0655 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday said the U.N. secretary general's authority over Japan's proposed peacekeeping forces will be limited.

"It is clear that the U.N. secretary general will not have the right to order Japanese peacekeeping forces and that he will not be in a position to command the Japanese peacekeepers," the prime minister said.

Miyazawa was responding to questions by Social Democratic Party (SDP) legislator Tadatoshi Akiba, at the House of Representatives committee debating a bill that would empower the government to send Japan's military overseas to join U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Akiba asked whether there is any inconsistency between the bill's provision allowing Japanese troops to open fire only in self-defense and the U.N.'s standard operating procedures empowering the commander appointed by the secretary general to order fire to defend a peacekeeping mission when attacked.

The standard operating procedures stipulate the chain of command for U.N. peacekeepers and the parameters of their military actions for cease-fire-monitoring purposes.

The government says it has incorporated stringent limitations in the bill to ensure its consistency with Japan's Constitution, which bans the use of force as a means of settling international disputes.

The SDP and other opposition parties have said that the official explanation is a sophistry to secure the passage of the bill, as Japanese troops, once placed under a commander appointed by the U.N. secretary general, would be forced to fire on the orders of the commander, and not necessarily in self-defense.

This would breach Japan's Constitution, they said.

Issei Nomura, deputy director general of the cabinet secretariat, told the committee: "Japanese troops would retain the command in the operations of their unit."

Akiba countered that the U.N. operating procedures mandate that all peacekeepers be placed under the U.N. secretary general. "A peacekeeping force that would not follow the orders of the secretary general is unthinkable."

Miyazawa said: "Japanese troops joining the peacekeeping force would not be governed by the command of the secretary general, but their actions would be governed in accordance with the bill."

He said the cabinet would spell out the codes of action for Japanese peacekeepers in a form capable of honoring the U.N. secretary general's authority to issue instructions to peacekeepers.

"Although the U.N. secretary general has command over the organization, deployment, and activities of peacekeeping units, this command apparently does not include the right to penalize or reprove servicemen who disobey his orders," Miyazawa said.

Officials Detail UN Unit's Transport Dilemma

OW1811042591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0353 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 KYODO—Defense officials said Monday even if the Diet approves a U.N. peacekeeping bill, the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) would not be able to transport enough of the large helicopters and bulldozers needed for U.N. peacekeeping operations or relief work overseas.

If the SDF would be required to swiftly dispatch several hundred soldiers in each peacekeeping or disaster-rescue operations unit, Japan would only be able to send small trucks, armored cars, and other support equipment along with them, the officials said.

The officials made the statement on the first day of discussions in the House of Representatives Ad Hoc Committee on U.N. peacekeeping cooperation.

They said the SDF's largest transport plane airplane, the Lockheed C130 Hercules, is incapable of transporting large helicopters like Boeing Ch-47J transport helicopters or Boeing Vertol V-107A rescue helicopters—aircraft considered to be the most effective in such operations.

The defense forces' C130 Hercules transport planes are also not able to carry bulldozers, the officials said. They added that based on trial calculations, C130 aircraft would only be able to transport small-scale trucks, some armored cars, and small to medium-sized helicopters.

The defense officials said if the SDF were required to use the C130 hercules to transport enough equipment for a unit, it would be necessary to have at least 30 of the airplanes.

Currently the SDF only has 15 of the C130 airplanes, they said.

The SDF are considering alternative plans that would involve dismantling large helicpoters for air transport, or using maritime Self-Defense Force frigates to move the choppers, the officials said.

The officials added, however, that the sea transport alternative did not seem realistic.

New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Visits

Calls for Market Opening

OW1911085091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0819 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Don Mckinnon on Tuesday called for Japan to open its markets to dairy and fish products from his country.

Mckinnon told a news conference here he raised the question of access to the Japanese market with International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu.

Mckinnon, who is also New Zealand's minister of external relations and trade, said both Japanese ministers told him they recognized the need to see a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

"Japan has a special responsibility and opportunity to see that the round is concluded successfully," Mckinnon said.

"The alternative to the Uruguay Round would be a break down into trading blocks and an increase in poverty," he added.

Mckinnon said New Zealand is watching the way Japan handles the debate over the opening of its rice market.

"We are watching not because New Zealand wants to export rice to Japan, but because we want to export dairy products which are protected, and fish which is protected, and horticultural products which are subject to constraints in this market," Mckinnon said.

Mckinnon said Japan is likely to overtake Australia shortly as New Zealand's main trading partner.

Two-way trade between Japan and New Zealand is now estimated to be an annual 400 billion yen or 5 billion New Zealand dollars. Mckinnon said 120,000 Japanese tourists now visit New Zealand each year, and many of them are honeymooners.

"We're very happy to see a further 120,000 come if they are prepared to come," he said.

"That might mean double the honeymooners," Mckinnon added.

"I understand the cost of marriage is very low in New Zealand and that might encourage more to come to New Zealand, even though the government has no control over the cost of marriage," he said.

Mckinnon arrived in Japan from South Korea on Sunday and will leave for Noumea, New Caledonia on Wednesday.

Meets Prime Minister Miyazawa

OW1911122791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Don Mckinnon on Monday he hopes to see improved relations between New Zealand and the United States, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Ties between the two countries became strained when New Zealand adopted a nuclear-weapon free policy six years ago and the U.S. subsequently cut off defense relations.

Mckinnon told Miyazawa that New Zealand is deeply committed to improving relations with the United States, the official said.

New Zealand wants to play an active role in the West, Mckinnon was quoted as saying in the 10-minute courtesy call.

Since the Conservative National Party took over from a Labor Government last year, Mckinnon has expressed interest in renewing defense relations with the U.S., while maintaining a nonnuclear status.

Mckinnon, who serves concurrently as minister of external relations and trade, called on Miyazawa to exercise leadership in the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Japan is being pressed to open its market to rice imports to lend momentum to negotiations on agricultural liberalization.

Mckinnon also urged Japan to further open its markets to New Zealand goods, the official said.

Earlier in the day Mckinnon said he told International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe he wants wider access for dairy and fish products.

The New Zealand minister said he would also like to see more investment from Japan, the official said.

He extended an invitation to Miyazawa to visit New Zealand at an early time.

Mckinnon arrived here from South Korea on Sunday and is to leave for Noumea, New Caledonia on Wednesday.

Talks With DPRK on Normalizing Ties Continue

Korea's Nuclear Program Disputed

OW1811123291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Beijing, Nov. 18 KYODO—Japan expressed concern in diplomatic talks Monday over a North Korean nuclear fuel reprocessing plant allegedly under construction, Japanese officials said.

In the fifth round of negotiations to establish diplomatic relations between Tokyo and Pyongyang, Japan's chief negotiator Noboru Nakahira told a North Korean delegation that the facility said to be under construction in Yongbyong, some 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang, is a very grave issue from the viewpoint of Japan's security.

Nakahira also said if North Korea will not accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities unconditionally, substantial progress in bilateral negotiations would be difficult.

North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Chon In-chol, chief of the North Korean delegation, reacted to the Japanese delegation's remarks by saying Japan is taking up an unnecessary argument.

At the start of two days of talks, the Japanese side reiterated that Japan cannot establish diplomatic ties if North Korea shelves the issue of signing of a nuclear safeguard pact with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Chon said North Korea wants to discuss substantial issues without raising problems that have nothing to do with establishing relations.

Chon told reporters after the morning session that North Korea will sign an accord on international inspection of its nuclear facilities if the United States removes all its nuclear weapons from South Korea.

"Now that U.S. President George Bush has admitted the existence of its nuclear weapons in South Korea, the path to Pyongyang signing the agreement is automatically opened," Chon said.

North Korea signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1985, but has refused to sign the safeguards agreement with the IAEA providing for international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Citing the simultaneous entry of South and North Korea to the United Nations and the recent resumption of North and South Korean premiers' talks, Chon said such international situations would facilitate negotiations on normalizing relations between Pyongyang and Tokyo.

But he said there is no link between bilateral normalization talks and the issue of international inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities.

Discuss Colonial Rule Compensation

OW1911141591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1342 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Beijing, Nov. 19 KYODO—Japan and North Korea agreed Tuesday to extend two-day diplomatic normalization talks by one day in order to debate inter-Korean dialogue aimed at easing political and military tensions on the Korean peninsula, Japanese officials said.

In Tuesday's session of the fifth round of talks between the two countries, held at the North Korean Embassy in Beijing, representatives discussed "economic problems" such as possible reparations by Japan for its 1910-1945 colonial rule of the peninsula.

Chon In-chol, head of the North Korean delegation, strongly demanded that Japan should compensate for suffering and losses which it inflicted on the Korean people as an "aggressor."

Chon, however, did not raise the issue of Japanese compensation for North Korean "losses" incurred during the 45-year postwar period.

The joint declaration issued in late September 1990 by three political parties, including the ruling parties of both countries, said that Japan should pay compensation to North Korea not only for its colonial rule but also for "losses" suffered by Korea in postwar years.

In line with the declaration, which paved the way for the normalization talks, North Korea has demanded such compensation in all previous four rounds of the talks.

After Tuesday's session, Chon said at a press conference, "Japan should first pay compensation for prewar North Korean losses...in order."

Chon, a North Korean vice foreign minister, did not, however, give a reason why Pyongyang had not demanded the postwar compensation at the current meeting.

He also stopped short of specifying the amount of compensation North Korea would call for, saying, "the negotiations have not entered that stage."

Japan provided 500 million dollars worth of compensation to South Korea in the form of economic assistance when Tokyo and Seoul established diplomatic ties in 1965.

Chon, citing Germany's postwar compensation for Nazi criminal acts, insisted that Japan deal sincerely with the compensation issue "in accordance with international practices and laws."

In response to Japan's call for immediate and unconditional international inspections of North Korean nuclear facilities, Chon said that the unilateral demand is "unfair," adding that international pressure on pyongyang should stop.

North Korea, a signatory of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, has refused to open its nuclear facilities in Yongbyong, some 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang, to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

North Korea has contended that U.S. nuclear weapons it says are deployed in South Korea be removed from the Korean peninsula first.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has proposed that six countries—the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and Japan as well as the two Koreas—have talks to discuss the North Korean nuclear development issue.

Russian Republic's Special Envoy Continues Visit

Meets Finance Minister Tsutoma

OW1911052291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0406 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—The Russian Federation is willing to accept Japanese experts to help with its economic reforms, a visiting senior Russian official said Tuesday.

Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Russian Republic's Supreme Soviet, told Japanese Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata that Russia plans to seek advice on its sweeping economic reforms from an international advisory panel, according to a senior Finance Ministry official.

Lukin said if Japan agrees, the republic would be happy to have Japanese economists on the panel, said Yuichi Ezawa, director general of the ministry's International Finance Bureau.

Lukin was referring to the radical economic reform program announced late October by Russian President

Boris Yeltsin, which includes freeing most prices and privatizing about 30 to 40 percent of companies, Ezawa said.

The Russian official is in Japan as a special envoy for Yeltsin to explain the reform plan and seek assistance from Tokyo.

Lukin also told Hata that in case any of the republics are unable to pay back foreign debts, Russia is ready to share their obligations, Ezawa said.

His words confirmed an October agreement between the Soviet Central Government and 12 republics over sharing the debt burden.

Lukin also said there are no major differences between Yeltsin's plan and the reform program for the entire Soviet Union forwarded by economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy.

Discusses Reform With Miyazawa

OW1911061491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0600 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Economic reforms in the Soviet Union will be impossible without assistance from the international community, a special envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin told Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday.

Vladimir Lukin made the comment after presenting Miyazawa with a letter from Yeltsin outlining his economic reform program, a Foreign Ministry official said.

The plan includes liberalizing prices, making the ruble convertible to hard currency, and introducing sound monetary policies, the official said.

Lukin, chairman of the Committee on International Affairs and Foreign Economic Ties of his republic's parliament, reportedly said his country is also struggling to foster a healthy work ethic and raise productivity.

"Without cooperation we will have a difficult time in successfully joining the world community," he was quoted saying. Lukin is one of several emissaries dispatched to major countries to explain Yeltsin's radical economic reforms.

Miyazawa replied that he believes the reforms are going in the correct direction and said Japan is prepared to offer as much assistance as possible, the ministry official said.

The assistance should be based on the "friendship, good will, and understanding" of the Japanese people, Miyazawa was quoted as saying. Tokyo has so far pledged 2.5 billion dollars to the Soviet Union for emergency food supplies and trade cooperation.

In the 25-minute meeting Miyazawa also reportedly called for a solution to a four-decade old territorial dispute that has blocked the two neighbors from concluding a peace treaty.

Yeltsin also would like to see an early solution to the dispute over the four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido, Lukin was quoted as saying. "We would like to make efforts to engage in a constructive discussion," he said, according to the official.

The islands, seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II, are under the jurisdiction of the Russian Republic.

Miyazawa invited Yeltsin to visit Japan, but the timing of such a visit was not discussed, the official said.

Lukin also called for economic assistance in separate meetings earlier Tuesday with ruling Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki and Yuji Osada, president of the House of Councillors, officials said.

Lukin reportedly told Watanuki he hoped foreign firms would invest in the Soviet Union and use the rubles earned there to help revitalize the country's ailing economy.

Both Watanuki and Osada referred to the need to resolve the territorial dispute, the officials said.

Lukin reportedly told Osada both sides must make concessions if a solution is to be found.

Lukin arrived Sunday from South Korea for a three-day visit.

Calls for Restructuring Assistance

OW1911093591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0901 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—A visiting emissary of Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday called for Japanese assistance in pushing ahead with the republic's economic restructuring plans, a Japanese Government official said.

Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Russian Parliament's Committee on International Affairs and Foreign Economic Ties, made the request during his meeting with Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe.

Outlining the recently announced economic reform package, Lukin urged foreign aid to help free prices, privatize state-run corporations, and make the ruble convertible, said Toshiaki Kitamura, director of the West Europe-Africa-Middle East Division of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

Kitamura quoted Lukin as saying the republic needs foreign aid to finance its purchases of foreign goods, which he said are essential to fill the empty shelves at stores and allay growing dissatisfaction among Russian people.

Price liberalization would fail if the lack of goods leads to social destabilization, Lukin said.

Yeltsin's special envoy also invited Japanese companies to invest in Russian firms in order to help privatize them and he called for foreign credit to help make the ruble convertible.

During the hour-long meeting, Lukin also said a Japanese group appears competitive enough to win an upcoming bid for a natural gas and oil resource development project off Sakhalin.

He was responding to Watanabe's remark that the Soviet-Japan joint development of natural resources will be "in the interest of both countries," a ministry source said.

Watanabe was apparently referring to the Sakhalin project even though he did not specifically mention it, the source added.

The Sakhalin Government reportedly will hold a new international bid on the project, in which six international consortia have shown interest.

One of the interested consortia is a Japanese team led by the government-private company, Sakhalin Oil Development Cooperation Co.

Requests Increased Direct Investment

OW1911124591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1156 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—The Russian Republic is considering establishment of a Russo-Japanese economic committee in the near future, a visiting envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin disclosed Tuesday.

Vladimir Lukin spoke of the plan to Isamu Yamashita, head of the Japan-Soviet Economic Committee under the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), while also requesting stepped-up Japanese direct investment in Russia.

Yamashita welcomed the possible establishment of the committee and said Japan is currently watching the structural reforms under way in the Soviet Union.

Lukin declined to specify details about the proposed committee, such as its specified powers or the time of its likely establishment.

Lukin, chairman of the Committee on International Affairs and Foreign Economic Ties for his republic's parliament, predicted that Russia will transform rapidly into a market economy and expressed the hope that a third of state enterprises will eventually be privatized.

Trade Minister Expects Consensus on Rice Issue

OW1911025591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0228 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe said Tuesday the government and the ruling party will eventually iron out their discord over the politically-charged rice issue to save crucial global trade talks.

Watanabe told a regular press conference after the day's cabinet meeting that the two, though differing in views at present, will find "common ground," possibly by the end of the year, to help bring the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks to a successful conclusion.

He was responding to a question over recent remarks showing greater flexibility on the issue made by the top brass of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), including Ichiro Ozawa, one of its top power brokers.

Ozawa reportedly said Japan should avoid being blamed for the collapse of the five-year round by obstinately shutting out foreign rice. His comments are widely regarded as breaking a monolithic stance over rice so far taken by the LDP and the government, which has defended its longstanding ban on rice imports to protect domestic farmers.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills said during her recent trip to Tokyo that Japan would be responsible for the failure of the talks, sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), if it refuses to budge on the rice issue.

The United States and the European Community (EC) are moving closer over farm subsidies, the largst stumbling block to the GATT talks, leaving Japan the sole major opponent to freer agricultural trade. Arguing Japan owes its economic prosperity during the postwar era to the free-trade system advanced by GATT, Watanabe said the country should be responsible for the success of the Uruguay Round. However, he said any consensus on the rice problem should be reached after paying due attention to farmers.

Government To Expand Foreign Products Procurement

OW1911094991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0906 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—The government will expand procurement of foreign products and take other measures to cut Japan's burgeoning trade surplus and smooth the current round of international trade talks, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Tokyo will boost the number of organizations covered by international bidding regulations, lower the threshold on foreign participation and improve contract procedures "in view of the seriousness of the increasing trade imbalance between Japan and other countries," said Spokesman Taizo Watanabe.

The moves show Japan is "taking leadership" in the Uruguay Round of trade talks before an anticipated agreement on government procurement, he said.

Tokyo will increase from 71 to 99 the number of government-related organizations subject to the agreement on government procurement, which regulates the internationalization of competitive bidding, Watanabe said.

Last year, the government procured about 70 billion yen worth of foreign products, or about 14 percent of the 490 billion yen worth that were subject to international bidding.

Government procurement of foreign products should see "quite a sizable increase," Watanabe said, adding that some speculate such procurement would double.

Watanabe said Japan will voluntarily lower the threshold for foreign applications for large-scale product procurements, opening contracts worth more than 17 million yen to international bidding.

The threshold will be lowered from 130,000 special drawing rights (SDR), equal to 22 million yen, to 100,000 SDR, or about 17 million yen, he said. The SDR is the common denominator of currency for the international community.

Japan will reportedly be the only country to go below the 130,000 SDR threshold level set by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the agreement under which the Uruguay Round talks are being held.

Watanabe also said Japan will improve contract procedures by giving advance notice at the beginning of the fiscal year of large-scale product procurements, extending the bidding time from 40 days to 50 days, and publicizing projects in English.

Watanabe said the measures come in response to calls on Japan to make available "more clear-cut, transparent information" to foreign bidders.

Trade Minister Promises 'Preemptive' Growth Steps

OW1811035191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0240 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 KYODO—Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe promised smaller firms Monday that the government will take "preemptive" measures to keep Japan's economic growth alive, a ministry official said.

In a morning meeting wth officials from four industrial organizations representing small- to medium-sized companies, Watanabe said the steps include fiscal expansion.

The four organizations, including the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Central Federation of Societies of Commerce and Industry, welcomed the recent cut in the official discount rate.

They called, however, for further flexibility in Japan's economic steering, including an increase in government spending aimed at supporting smaller companies, which they said are the main sufferers from a slowing economy.

Government, LDP Shelve Single-Seat Constituency

OW1811152891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1513 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 (KYODO)—Top leaders of the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) agreed Monday to shelve political reform plans designed mainly to introduce a single-seat constituency system in the House of Representatives, political sources said.

The sources said the agreement was made at a meeting held by government and party leaders, including Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, and three LDP executives—Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki, Executive Council Chairman Koko Sato, and Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman Yoshiro Mori.

"It will be too difficult to reach an agreement with opposition parties through the scrapped political reform bills proposed by the government and the LDP," Watanuki was quoted as telling the meeting.

Watanuki also proposed working out a substitute plan for political reform within the LDP, the sources said.

A package of political reform bills was killed by the Diet in early October.

The LDP and other major opposition parties have agreed to continue discussions at a consultative body on political reform.

The scrapped package is designed to overhaul Japan's electoral system, tighten control on political funds, and provide subsidies to political parties.

The election bill would reduce the size of the lower house to 471 members from the present 512 by introducing a system of single-seat election districts and proportional representation districts.

Under the proposed bill, the current 130 multiple-seat constituencies in the lower house would be converted into 300 single-seat constituencies.

The remaining 171 seats would be decided through a proportional representation system.

Toshiba, Germany's Siemens Reach Chip Agreement

OW1811100191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0844 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 18 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. has reached a basic agreement with Germany's Siemens AG to cooperate in a computer technology developed by MIPS Computer Systems Inc. of the United States, company officials said Monday.

The agreement between Toshiba and Siemens calls for possible cooperation in the development of MIPS' R3000 and R4000 series of reduced instruction set computer (RISC) central processing units (CPUs) and use of the technology in computers, data base servers, and telecommunications systems.

Last month, Toshiba entered into a licensing agreement with MIPS to obtain the right to design, develop, manufacture, and market the U.S. company's series RISC microprocessors in Japan.

Toshiba's Information Processing and Control Systems Group already uses RISC chips in its workstations made by U.S.-based Sun Microsystems Inc., a rival to MIPS technology.

Officials said the two Toshiba groups are totally independent in the business activities.

Officials estimate that the use of RISC microprocessors, which reduce the number of instructions handled by computer CPUs, in the total 32-bit chip market will increase to 30 percent by 1995, from 11 percent today.

Both companies will mutually provide "second sourcing" to ensure availability to customers, mainly the 200 member companies participating in the Advanced Computing Environment (ACE) Initiative.

ACE was set up in April by a few U.S. computer makers to promote a broadly supported, standards-based open computing environment for a new class of advanced computers using MIPS chips. NEC Corp. is also a member of the consortium.

In addition, the two companies will act as "silicon foundries," in which each partner may produce RISC chips at the request of the other, and provide products to each other under an original equipment manufacturers (OEM) basis.

Siemens AG, which is headquartered in Munich, has had technical cooperative agreements going on with Toshiba since 1985, they said.

North Korea

U.S. Urged To Improve Asia-Pacific Situation

SK1711090491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0827 GMT 17 Nov 91

["U.S. Imperialists' Asia-Pacific Strategy and Moves of War Against North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 17 (KCNA)—If the situation is to be improved in Asia and the Pacific, the situation on the Korean peninsula must be eased first of all and, to this end, the United States must discard its anachronistic Korea policy of keeping hold on South Korea forever and containing the North with strength. NODONG SINMUN today stresses this in a signed article entitled "U.S. Imperialists' Asia-Pacific Strategy and Moves of War Against North."

The article says:

The purpose of the U.S. imperialists' Asia-Pacific strategy is to contain the socialist and progressive forces with strength and realise their domination and control in this region.

Although the structure of the Cold War caused by confrontation between superpowers in the past is collapsing, the U.S. imperialists' ambition for world domination is invariable.

They defined the "21st century" as the "age of the Pacific," raised it as the essential demand for the establishment of a "new world order" to dominate the Asia-Pacific region and plan to use this region as the main theatre for realising a "new military strategy."

South Korea is the area to which the U.S. imperialists direct the greatest importance in the execution of the Asia-Pacific strategy.

They declared South Korea the "first-line area for the U.S. strategy" and the "most useful stronghold" in the execution of the Asia-Pacific strategy.

They plan to take South Korea as a foothold for realising a "new military strategy" and make a breakthrough in it on the Korean peninsula.

They are working hard to keep hold on South Korea militarily.

With a view to keeping their troops in South Korea for an indefinite period, they are continuously shipping up-to-date equipment for their qualitative improvement and staging frantic military maneuvers one after another in South Korea.

They waged the Persian Gulf war on the basis of the operations perfected through military maneuvers in South Korea and its vicinity and scheme to stage another Persian Gulf war on the Korean peninsula with this experience.

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, "Eagle 91" joint military exercise, "Valiant Blitz" joint exercise and aerial combat exercises staged in the sky above South Korea almost every day are all war maneuvers against the North to realise the "new military strategy" of U.S. imperialism.

The U.S. imperialists are these days raising a hue and cry over the fiction about our "nuclear development", fabricating a new theory of "threat from the North," viciously committing the anti- DPRK smear campaign as never before and making provocative outbursts in an attempt to force a "nuclear inspection" on the DPRK. This shows that they try to find an pretext for the provocation of a war against the North.

The tensions fail to be eased and the danger of war is increasing daily on the Korean peninsula entirely because the U.S. imperialists direct the sharp edge of aggression to this peninsula in accordance with their aggressive Asia-Pacific strategy.

The U.S. imperialists must withdraw their troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea and stop reckless war provocation moves against the North.

U.S.-ROK Patent Security Agreement Denounced

SK1811101991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0957 GMT 18 Nov 91

["What Does 'Patent Security Agreement' Show?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 18 (KCNA)—The "Patent Security Agreement" (PSA) was reportedly initialed between the South Korean puppets and the U.S. administration in Washington on November 6.

The "PSA" is an "exceptional agreement on industrial ownership" under which the side which is provided with military inventions or technologies should promise not to open it to the public for a certain period.

It is not fortuitous that the U.S. imperialists forced the puppets alone to initial the "PSA."

They tried to force the puppets to sign the "agreement" from the time when they inveigled them into the "Strategic Defense Initiative" (SDI) commonly called the "Star Wars program" in April 1987.

Binding the puppets to their aggressive program, they sought, above all, to reduce the munitions industry of South Korea to a subordinate business of their own munitions monopolies. This was shown in the course of their negotiations with the puppets over the past four years or more.

At several rounds of talks the puppets begged them to allow the use of "patents" for civilian purposes, too, in return for guaranteeing their security, but the latter refused it.

This was to block the development of mercantile goods of South Korean civilian businesses which now assemble and export electronic products by use of foreign raw materials and technologies and thoroughly reduce the "defense industrial businesses" dually and trebly to ones subordinate to the U.S. munitions monopolies.

This also reveals the intention of the U.S. imperialists to bring the "defense industrial businesses" in their colonies to the maximum use for the "Star Wars program" with a less amount of dollars.

South Press Warned for Carrying 'False Reports'

SK1611050391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 16 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] in a statement to the press on November 15 said that some South Korean mediamen on the "government" payroll who resort to false reports disparaging the northern half of Korea, acting at the beck and call of the South Korean rulers, would not be allowed to enter the portion of our side in Panmunjom or visit Pyongyang.

Recalling that the South Korean authorities circulated an unfounded false report through the newspaper KYONGHYANG daily that there was a "large-scale anti-government demonstration" in the North, he says:

The clumsy and base attempts of the South Korean puppets to deceive the people and mislead public opinion at home and abroad through an utterly groundless false report is an anti-national, anti-reunification unpardonable criminal act intended to incite antagonism and confrontation within the nation, impede national reconciliation and unity and create obstacles to reunification.

The South Korean puppets must clearly know that their mean false report will not affect at all the socialism of our style centered on the people which is advancing without wavering in any storm, the rock-firm unity and cohesion of our people and the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses which is demonstrating the invincible might more powerfully.

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we solemnly warn some paid media of South Korea which, as tools of the South Korean rulers, are openly engaged in false reports, while trampling underfoot the elementary ethics of the press, furthermore, even betraying the interests of the nation.

We make it clear that we will register some paid media of South Korea which spread false reports slandering us, dancing to the tune of anti-communist confrontation of the South Korean rulers, instead of correctly and impartially reporting facts about the northern half of the country and not allow the reporters employed by them to enter the portion of our side in Panmunjom or visit Pyongyang to cover North-South talks and joint functions.

In this connection, we solemnly declare that, as the first case, we will register the subsidized newspaper KYONGHYANG daily of South Korea which carried a false report about us this time as an anti- reunification paper and not allow any of its reporters to visit the North for news coverage.

We express the belief that conscientious and patriotic mediamen of South Korea will advance, wielding the pen of justice, in order to oppose and reject the authorities' unreasonable anti-communist trick, for national reconciliation and unity and earlier national reunification.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to G-77 Meeting

SK1911104291 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0800 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The great leader President Kim Il-song today sent a message of greetings to the seventh ministerial meeting of G-77 to be held in Tehran.

The message reads:

To the G-77 ministerial meeting: In connection with the opening of the seventh ministerial meeting of the G-77, I, on behalf of the DPRK Government, Korean people, and myself, extend enthusiastic congratulations and greetings to all delegates participating in the meeting.

The ministerial meeting of G-77 is of weighty importance in working out the common strategy of the developing countries for fair settlement of the present international economic issues and achieving unity of action.

Today the developing countries are still suffering great difficulties in economic development owing to the unfair international economic relations, which is daily widening the gap between the rich and the poor on a worldwide scale.

This is an urgent matter that should be solved at an early date as it is one more factor of threatening world peace and rendering international situation unstable.

The developing countries will be able to overcome all economic difficulties and attain common prosperity by further stregnthening unity and cooperation and actively expanding South-South cooperation on the principle of collective self-reliance.

The government of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea is making every effort for unity and close cooperation with the developing countries and for the realisation of the idea and action program of G-77.

Believing that the seventh ministerial meeting of G-77 will successfully discuss the agenda items in keeping with the demand and aspirations of the peoples of the developing countries and thus make an active contribution to finding an effective and positive way to deal with the forthcoming eighth meeting of the UN Conference on Trade and Development, I wish the meeting a good fruition in its work.

Kim Il-song Meets Indian Communist Party Guest

SK1511152791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1457 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 15 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today called on the general secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India [CPI] at the guest house.

He was greeted at the guest house by Indrajit Gupta, general secretary of the National Council of the CPI, and his entourage.

President Kim Il-song had a cordial and friendly conversation with General Secretary Indrajit Gupta.

Assembly Group Talks With Indonesian Legislators

SK1911093991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0813 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 19 (KCNA)—Talks between the delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea headed by Kim Yong-sun, vice- chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA, and the delegation of the House of Representatives of Indonesia were held at the building of the Indonesian parliament on November 16.

Present there on our side were the members of the delegation and the DPRK ambassador to Indonesia and on the opposite side were Susatyo Mardhi, chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Commission of the House of Representatives of Indonesia, and other officials concerned.

The talks took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Assembly Chairman Cables Mongolian Counterpart

SK1911114991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0956 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 19 (KCNA)—Chairman Yang Hyong-sop of the Supreme People's Assembly sent a message of greetings to J. Urtnasan upon his election as chairman of the Great People's Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic at the second session of the 12th Hural.

Expressing the belief that the relations between the supreme power organs of the two countries will develop in conformity with the interests of the peoples of the two countries, the message wishes him success in his work.

New 'Repressive Offensive' in South Condemned

SK1811060391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 18 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities ordered the supply of pistols loaded with rubber bullets and tear gas canisters to 200 police booths around universities in various cities, according to a "CBS" [Christian Broadcasting System] report from Seoul on November 15.

In order to increase the rate of arrest of demonstrators, they decided to use in the suppression of demonstrators the rubber bullets which may knock down a man by hitting him in any region of his body.

Meanwhile, the puppet prosecutor's office, in an attempt to arrest participants in struggle sought by it, took a criminal measure to search student halls of universities and dispatch groups of detectives to the places related to the men on the want list.

The No Tae-u ruling group is launching another repressive offensive, upset by the ever fiercer struggle of the South Korean students for independence against the United States, for democracy against fascism and for national reunification.

Daily Says Calls Elections in South 'Outrage'

SK1711085291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0822 GMT 17 Nov 91

["Fascist Tyrant's 'Fair Election' Ballad"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 17 (KCNA)—The traitor No Tae-u summoned leading officials of the "Democratic Liberal Party" [DLP] to "Chongwadae" some time ago and told them to strive to hold "fair elections" in a "clean way and in good order", saying that the future of the "DLP" depends on how such "elections" as the "14th parliamentary election," "presidential election" and "election of chiefs of local autonomous bodies" are held new year. [sentence as received]

The No Tae-u group that seized "power" by faking up the "election returns" through unprecedented violence and fraud and maintains the power with bayonet and the murderous "security-oriented rule" is prattling as if it would make next year's elections "clean and fair."

NODONG SINMUN today brands this as an outrage and another intolerable mockery of people.

The news analyst says:

As the world knows, South Korea is a colonial fascist society where bayonet means politics and the outburst of the dictator makes law and order, a graveyard of democracy and civil rights where not an iota of democracy can be found and a corrupt and ailing society where all sorts of swindle hold sway.

It is as clear as noonday that clean and fair elections can never be held under these circumstances.

The socalled "elections" held under the system of U.S. colonial domination and fascist dictatorship are no more than a nominal function to lay the colonial and dictatorial foundation and legalize fascist rule by fabricating "people's will" with money and government powr.

Truly democratic and fair elections can never be expected as long as the U.S. imperialists' colonial domination and No Tae-u's murderous and violent "regime" remain. The political gangsters of No Tae-u's "Democratic Liberal Party" rejected by the South Korean people for its hands stained with blood of the pro-democracy resistance martyrs and for its corruption are not entitled to manage the "elections."

Campaigns for 24 Nov Election Under Way

SK1911031891 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Hurrah to the revolutionary sovereignty of the workers and peasants created and led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song! The city and county election of deputies to the People's Assemblies will be held on 24 November. Let us all participate in the election.

With the 24 November election of deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies just around the corner, the whole nation is actively campaigning with lectures, explanations, and dialogues.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The people's government must be strengthened endlessly to guarantee and protect the working masses' independent rights and creative activities and provide them a happy material and cultural life.

The election committees organized throughout the nation are campaigning so that all of the people can participate in the election with high political awareness and revolutionary enthusiasm and firmly consolidate our people's government.

The election committees put up slogans and campaign posters in the residential areas and production sites that read, "Hurrah to the revolutionary sovereignty of the workers and peasants founded and led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song," "24 November is election day for the deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies," "Let us all participate in the election," and "Let us all cast a favorable vote." Also, various methods of rousing the people, including vehicles for broadcasting campaigns, have heightened the atmosphere for the upcoming election.

The functionaries of the local party and government organs, administrative and economic organs, and mass organizations, agitators, the five household propagandists, teachers, and students are campaigning with lectures, explanations, and dialogues. Explanations of campaign posters and slogans are given in the plants, enterprises, cooperative farms, the people's neighborhood street units, passenger trains, buses, ships, theaters, and waiting rooms in railway stations.

In accordance with the specific characteristics of many units in many provinces including Pyongyang, South Pyongan Province, and North Hwanghae Province, lectures, explanations, and dialogues were held under the title "Let us all participate in the election of city and county deputies to the People's Assemblies so that our people's government can be more firmly consolidated."

The speakers talked about the political significance of the election which will more firmly consolidate the people's government as an advocate of our people's freedom, rights, and revolutionary weapon; and vigorously demonstrated at home and abroad the superiority of the socialism of our own style and invincible vitality.

They said that our people's government is a true people's government in which the broad working masses, including the working class, become the masters and thoroughly advocate the people's interests. They emphasized that this is a glorious government which inherited the brilliant tradition of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and a lofty result of the revolution in which our people defeated all kinds of interference from the enemies at home and abroad and firmly consolidated it.

The speakers said that our people are deeply aware that through their long life experience our people's government is indeed a true people's government sincerely serving the people and that they cannot think about the happy life they are enjoying today and about the bright future without thinking of the people's government. They also said that the people regard as a great honor and unsurpassed pride their revolutionary government which is loyal to our party's cause. It is appropriate that they are actively participating in the work to strengthen the people's government.

They exposed the fact that the imperialists including the U.S. imperialists are viciously carrying out maneuvers more than ever before to oppose socialism, and said that the working masses can freely exercise their true political right through elections under a socialist system which guarantees only socialist democracy.

They emphasized that by embracing the endless pride and dignity of highly upholding the great leader and the dear leader comrade and of living in the chuche fatherland which the world's revolutionary people are looking at as the beacon of hope, everyone should participate in the elections and cast a favorable vote so that they can brighten the honor of being citizens of the chuche fatherland.

The functionaries in the Hungnam District, Hamhung City went among the working class and volunteers of Hungnam and used vehicles with loudspeakers to broadcast campaigns. They also went among the singing squad of youth and students where the construction to increase and modernize facilities of the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex was finished in less than one month and where trial operation to load products is being carried out successfully. They congratulated them for their labor results and vigorously carried out campaign activities for the election. Therefore, the functionaries are making efforts to make the working class and volunteers participate in the election with high political enthusiasm and with brilliant labor results.

The functionaries of the election committees of North and South Pyongan Province, South Hamgyong Province, and Kangwon Province went among the agricultural workers who are accelerating the battle for the soil-tilling of rice fields after neatly finishing harvesting with the high pride of achieving once again a bumper crop this year. They are making the agricultural workers recognize the superiority of our nation's election system which is beyond all comparison and emphasized the need for them to all participate in the election so that they can fulfill the sacred duty as a citizen of the chuche fatherland.

In Kaesong City, regular street campaigns with the use of vehicles used for broadcasting campaigns are being held under the title of, "Let us all participate in the election of deputies to the People's Assembly of the city and county and cast a favorable vote." Also through the stories of the elders who experienced life both under the systems of the forced occupation of the Japanese imperialists and the U.S. imperialists, they are deeply making the workers and the new generation recognize the superiority of our nation's socialist system.

The activities of the youth and students' art propaganda squad and singing squad being held throughout the nation are also raising the atmosphere for the election all the more.

Currently, the voters throughout the nation are overflowing with the high revolutionary fervor to once again vigorously display to the whole world our society's true appearance in which the leader, the party, and the masses are united firmly under one ideology and intention by successfully carrying out the election of deputies to the People's Assemblies of the city and county.

Nomination Meetings Held

*SK1911111591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0831 GMT 19 Nov 91*

[Text] Pyongyang November 19 (KCNA)—Meetings of employees of factories, members of cooperative farms and inhabitants were held across the country to nominate candidates for deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies.

The reporters at the meetings said that the forthcoming elections of deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies are of weighty significance in powerfully demonstrating to the world once again the might of socialism of our style in which the leader, the party and the masses are united singleheartedly and accelerating the revolution and construction by further strengthening the people's power, a weapon of our revolution.

Our government is a genuine people's power which makes the workers and the working masses of broad strata the master of the country and steadfastly defends the interests of the people, they stressed.

The meetings nominated workers, farmers and working intellectuals who have devotedly worked for the party and the leader with their utmost efforts and can discharge their duties as servants for the people as the candidates for the deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies.

Electoral System Praised

SK1911130091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1016 GMT 19 Nov 91

["Democratic Election System Is Token of True Advantages of Our Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 19 (KCNA)—The elections of deputies to the city and county People's Assemblies slated for November 24 will mark an important occasion for our people to exercise their legitimate sovereignty as genuine masters of state and society, consolidate our local power bodies as firm as a rock and strikingly demonstrate the incomparable advantages of our election system, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article reads in part:

The election system of our socialism centred on the masses which was established under the wise guidance of the party and the leader is the superior one based on democracy.

It is clearly manifested not only in the principles specified by our election system but also in the procedures and methods of its enforcement.

The elections to the power bodies in our country are enforced in a free, fair way by universal, equal and direct suffrage by means of secret ballots.

In our country, above all, all the citizens including workers and peasants are allowed to participate in the elections and have the right to elect and to be elected.

As stipulated in the socialist Constitution of our country, all the citizens in our country above 17 have the right to elect and to be elected, irrespective of sex, nationality, occupation, residency, prosperity status and education, party affiliation, political view and religious belief.

The democratic character of our election system is also manifested in that the will of all the masses is freely and fully expressed in the elections.

All the citizens of our country nominate their representatives as candidates of deputies to power organs of all levels, exercising their right to elections without any legal limitations or restraints. Thus, deputies of power organs at all levels are elected according to the fair will of the masses and with their democratic support and nomination. The advantages of our election system are also seen in that the procedures and methods of election enforcement are fair and democracy is given full scope.

According to election rules, constituencies and subconstituencies are organized to work out lists of voters and present them to the public in advance. Subconstituencies are organized in each district according to the number of electors. And subconstituencies are separately organized at sparsely populated areas, hospitals, sanatoria, major railway stations and so on so that there may be no omissions in the elections. And, according to the principle of direct suffrage and secret ballot, all the citizens are provided with all conditions to freely express their will in the elections.

The democratic character of our election system is based on the essential characteristic features and advantages of our socialism, an embodiment of the great chuche idea.

It is entirely thanks to the wise guidance of the party and the leader that a superior social system, a popular election system which provides genuine democracy for the masses, has been established in our country.

KCNA Reviews 14 Nov Pyongyang Press

SK1411060491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0448 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang November 14 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a report that the great leader President Kim Il-song met and congratulated the participants in the meeting of company commanders of the Korean People's Army and a photograph he posed for with them.

NODONG SINMUN says that letters came to President Kim Il-song from functions in foreign countries for supporting Korea's reunification.

Carried in the paper is an article on the chuche-oriented line of building a new country indicated by President Kim Il-song in "On the Building of the Party, State and Armed Forces in the Liberated Homeland", his historical speech to the military and political cadres on August 20, 1945.

Dailies report that Inca Garcilaso Dela Vega University, Peru, adopted a decision to award an honorary doctorate to President Kim Il-song and the university decided to award an honorary doctorate to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

A lecture on "The Present Times and Tasks Facing Young People", a work of Comrade Kim Chong-il, was given in India, says NODONG SINMUN.

The meeting of company commanders of the Korean People's Army was closed, says the press.

Econews of the press includes reports that production and construction are being stepped up in various domains of the national economy under the motto "When the party is determined, we can do anything!"

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article explaining the working- class character of the chuche idea, the ideological foundation of our socialism, and

MINJU CHOSON with an article stressing that our people's government is a chuche-based one trusted and loved by the masses.

The press gives an account of talks between the government delegations of the DPRK and the Republic of Rwanda.

It is reported in NODONG SINMUN that a meeting was held on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the mass gymnastic display production, the president and the general secretary of the Workers' Party of Ireland separately met with the DPRK ambassador to Denmark and the council for the promotion of Ireland-Korea relations was formed.

NODONG SINMUN reports that an agreement on friendship and cooperation between the trade union of educational and cultural workers of Korea and the Japan Teachers' Union was signed in Pyongyang.

DPRK's proposal for national reunification was actively supported in various countries, says the press.

The world public demanded the immediate repatriation of old man Yi In-mo, former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, to the northern half of the DPRK, according to the press.

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary denouncing the South Korean authorities for refusing to send Yi In-mo back to the northern half of the DPRK.

South Korean news of the daily includes reports that many copies of literature lauding the chuche idea were found in Seoul and organisations in Pusan held rallies and demonstrations against market opening.

Given in the press is an account of a Pyongyang meeting held to welcome Chong Nak-ho, a worker at the Ungwang Company of South Korea who came over to the northern half of the DPRK.

The world public said that the Workers' Party of Korea is supported and trusted by the working people and the chairman of the central executive committee of the Japan Social- Democratic Party called for the early normalisation of diplomatic relations between Japan and the DPRK, reports NODONG SINMUN.

The daily carries news that the prime minister of India referred to the economic development of the country, the Angolan president called for striving for the stability of the country, a seminar of delegates of political parties in Europe was held in Madrid, the Conservative Party of Great Britain failed in a by-election of parliamentarians and Soviet publications said the treaty on economic community and economic reform proposal are faced with a serious difficulty.

The press deals with the recent situation of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

In a commentary, NODONG SINMUN brands Israel's construction of new Jew "settlements" in the Golan Heights as an invariable ambition of the aggressors.

The daily introduces the endeavours of Laos, Iran and Viet Nam to build a new Asia.

In a commentary denouncing the nuclear blackmail policy of the United States, the daily stresses that nuclear inspection should be made in the North and the South of Korea at the same time if it is to be made.

KCNA Reviews 15 Nov Pyongyang Press

SK1511054391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang November 15 (KCNA)—Dailies here today carry a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il- song received a Rwandan Government delegation.

Appearing in papers is a congratulatory message of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, upon his return to his homeland.

Papers give an account of a national meeting marking the 30th anniversary of the publication of "The Duty of Mothers in the Education of Children", an immortal classical work of President Kim Il-song.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the Rwandan president, say the papers.

NODONG SINMUN reports that works of Comrade Kim Chong-il were reported and deeply studied in foreign countries.

An article of the paper deals with the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il in the work for making the Hungnam fertilizer complex large-sized and modernized.

The Workers' Party of Korea publishing house has brought out "Among the People" (Vol. 48), a collection of memoirs, according to the press.

Papers carry news of innovations effected in the production of timber and heavy-weight wagons and achievements in various domains of the national economy.

An article of NODONG SINMUN explains the advantages of socialist commerce.

The Korean documentary film studio has released the documentary film "Builders of Hydroelectric Power Stations", the president of the national executive committee of the Communist Party of Ireland met the DPRK ambassador to Denmark, the general secretary of the Democratic Left Party of Ecuador met the DPRK ambassador to Peru, and a special prize and medal were awarded to Korean dishes at an international dishes exhibition held in Italy, report papers.

According to NODONG SINMUN, students of Kim Il-song University held a rally in denunciation of the suppression of campus by the South Korean authorities.

Papers convey voices of foreign political and public circles actively supporting the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

South Korean news columns of the press include reports that students in Seoul inaugurated the Western District Committee for National Reunification and various circles of South Korea are opposed to the U.S. pressure for agricultural market opening.

NODONG SINMUN rounds up world public voices strongly demanding the return of old man Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, to the northern half of Korea.

Libyan radio criticized the U.S. troops' occupation of South Korea, according to the paper.

The paper in an article demands that the United States completely and totally withdraw its ground- and sea-launched and air-delivered nuclear weapons.

Papers carry reports that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk arrived in Phnom Penh, the Vietnamese paper NHAN DAN hailed the results of the China visit of a Vietnamese high-level delegation, and the Malaysian prime minister denounced a high-handed act of the United States.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that Latin American and Caribbean regional trade union meeting expressed solidarity with Cuba and the aggressive acts of Israel are under fire in different countries.

The paper conveys foreign public voices lauding the peculiar socialism of Korea.

Papers observe the third anniversary of the founding of the State of Palestine.

NODONG SINMUN in an article condemns the U.S. imperialists for running amuck to unleash a new war, raising outcries over fictitious "development of nuclear weapons" by the DPRK.

KCNA Reviews 16 Nov Pyongyang Press

SK1611055291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang November 16 (KCNA)—Dailies here today carry a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il- song called on the general secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India at the guest house.

Carried in papers is a message of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Syrian President Hafiz al- Asad on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the corrective movement in Syria.

NODONG SINMUN says that the answers of President Kim Il-song to the questions raised by the director of Iwanami Shoten, publishers of Japan, was carried by the Cuban newspaper GRANMA.

Works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were reported in foreign countries, according to the press.

An article of MINJU CHOSON deals with the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il who changed Sinchon County, South Hwanghae Province, into a creditable base for agricultural production.

The news columns of the press devoted to achievements of working people in various domains of the national economy include news that a meeting of year-end account settlement and income distribution was held in Wonhwa co-operative farm in Pyongwon County, South Pyongan Province.

NODONG SINMUN devotes nearly one whole page to an article titled "Invincible Is Our Party With Its Roots Deeply Struck in the Hearts of People."

The paper observes the day of land and sea transport.

Papers inform the readers that a national festival of science and technology began.

The DPRK ambassador to Jamaica paid a courtesy call on the general secretary of the national executive committee of the People's National Party of Jamaica, says NODONG SINMUN.

The paper edits a report that the world people actively support our proposal for reunification through a confederacy.

Papers convey words of Korean and foreign people demanding the return of old man Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, to the northern half of Korea.

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary denouncing the No Tae-u ruling group for discussing and voting for a "package bill of the wartime support agreement" at the "cabinet meeting".

In a semi-montly review of the South Korean situation, the paper stresses that the No Tae-u ruling group's moves of confrontation and war and fascist suppression will only precipitate its own destruction.

Papers inform the readers that the second contact of delegates for the fifth round of inter-Korean high-level talks was held.

Public figures of different countries praise the unique socialism of Korea, according to NODONG SINMUN.

It is reported in papers that Comrade Jiang Zemin called for extensively waging the irrigation construction and the 60th anniversary of the founding of the central revolutionary base of China was celebrated in Ruijin, Jiangsu Province, China.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the Pakistani president called for cooperation among Islamic states and the anti-Cuban blockade by the U.S. is denounced by many countries.

Papers observe the 21st anniversary of the corrective movement in Syria.

NODONG SINMUN introduces Thailand.

The paper runs an article, saying that with whatever threat and blackmail and intervention the imperialists can never block the desire of the people for living in an independent, free and peaceful new world without domination and subjugation, aggression and war nor can they check the onward movement of history.

South Korea

Clashes Expected at Security Consultative Meeting

SK1911062891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0608 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (YONHAP)—Clashes between dissidents and the police over the signing of a defense accord by Korea and the United States are feared during the security consultative meeting (SCM) here Wednesday and Thursday.

Under the wartime host nation support (WHNS) agreement, initialed in July, Korea will provide critical logistical support to U.S. forces during a conflict in the Korean theater.

Chonminnyon [National Democratic Alliance of Korea] and Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives], the flag-carrying organizations for civil activists and radical students, are believed to have made plans to raid U.S. buildings and facilities in Seoul such as the U.S. Embassy and the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command Headquarters, police said. The Shilla Hotel, venue for the SCM, is also a major target.

Chondaehyop, virtually dormant since all of its core members were arrested in May, will orchestrate rallies on campuses across the nation.

Some 300 Seoul National University students staged a campus demonstration around 2 P.M. Tuesday in which they burned U.S. flags, setting the tone for demonstrations in universities around Korea on Wednesday.

A coalition of 17 civil activist groups, mainly made up of activist farmers and fired teachers, sent 12 representatives to the U.S. Embassy Tuesday morning and delievered a letter to Amb. Donald Gregg.

In the letter they denounced the WHNS pact as discriminatory and designed to make South Korea a permanent U.S. military base and urged it not be signed.

The embassy told the dissidents that Gregg would meet with them at 3 P.M. Wednesday.

Police beefed up security around U.S. facilities and deployed more policemen at stations and terminals to check on students.

Foreign Minister: Bush, Miyazawa Planning Visits

SK1911120791 Seoul YONHAP in English 1147 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—U.S. President George Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa are likely to visit Seoul for summits sometime in January, South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Tuesday.

The government is negotiating the details with the United States and Japan, he said in talks with reporters.

Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe had told Yi during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference here last week that Miyazawa hopes to come to South Korea in the near future.

South Korea is most likely to be the prime minister's first overseas trip, Watanabe had said then.

Bush was scheduled to come to Seoul on the first week of December during his Asian tour but canceled abruptly for domestic reasons.

White House spokesman said last week that Bush is in the process of rescheduling his Asian visit to early next year.

Foreign Minister on World Pressure Against North

SK1611083791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0752 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Pusan, South Korea, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government hopes to see North Korea's opening but does not believe excessive pressure or appeasement policy will be productive, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Saturday.

"We don't think excessive pressure or appeasement policy would be productive in opening up North Korea. We will maintain a position following principles," Yi said in an international seminar here.

"The sooner North Korea chooses to open up, the earlier it may join the international community and contribute to stabilizing Northeast Asian situation."

The minister said North Korea stood at a juncture to make up its own mind concerning nuclear issues now that South Korea had paved the ground for nonproliferation of nuclear weaponry in the Korean peninsula and a more stable security environment by making a declaration on "non-nuclear Korea."

"Such a decision will be received as the first signal of its opening."

Touching on Seoul-Beijing relations, Yi said China seemed to be hesitating to make it formal out of concern for North Korea.

"Establishment of formal ties between Seoul and Beijing will bring forth a positive effect by encouraging North Korea's opening. China has a great influence over North Korea and it is expected to play a positive role in solving the Korean question as has been proved at the time of U.N. entry by South and North Korea."

The minister said withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Philippines, reduction of American troops in Korea, and rising share of Korea and Japan in the cost of keeping U.S. forces did not mean that the United States was on the ebb but signified a more mature partnership between Seoul and Washington, and Washington and Tokyo.

When such bilateral partnerships mature and the relations between and among the regional countries become organic enough to cope with a regional security system, the often-touted Asia-Pacific security system could be considered, he said.

Spent Nuclear Fuel May Be Sent Abroad

SK1011141891 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 10 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] South Korea, now having pledged not to have a reprocessing plant, is considering sending its spent nuclear fuel abroad for reprocessing, said Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon yesterday.

"But for now the government's plan is to keep spent nuclear fuel at domestic storage sites," Kim said while testifying before the National Assembly Budget Settlement Committee early yesteray morning.

There are now some doubts about the cost-effectiveness of recycling used nuclear fuel, but when the prices of uranium soar and domestic nuclear plants become bigger, the government will consider having spent fuel reprocessed abroad, Kim said.

He cited as examples Japan, Germany and Switzerland which recycle their used fuel at facilities in Britain, France or the Soviet Union.

In a surprise announcement Friday [8 November], President No vowed that Seoul will not possess nuclear fuel reprocessing and enrichment facilities and called on the North to do the same.

A reprocessing plant recycles used uranium to be resued in nuclear reactors. The facility is to make the fuel economical by using it repeatedly, but the process also produces plutonium, an extremely toxic and highly radioactive substance that is used for nuclear weapons.

The government had reportedly considered introducing foreign technology to build its own reprocessing plant.

But possible public fear of accidents and the massive capital outlays for building recycling facilities have made the government reluctant, sources said. The relatively stable prices of uranium are another factor.

Above all, they said, the government, by denying any plan to build reprocessing facilities, are now better placed to pressure North Korea to follow suit.

North Korea is believed to have been building a reprocessing plant in Yongbyon, south of Pyongyang.

Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku told the National Assembly yesterday that Pyongyang will be able to arm itself with nuclear weapons in one or two years as its reprocessing plant is expected to go into operation in 1992 with the plutonium-production capacity of 50 to 60 tons a year.

Currently, domestic nuclear power plants keep their used fuel at "storage pools" at the plant sites, said Chong Ki-chung, an atomic energy expert at the Nuclear Environment Management Center.

Since the pools are running out of their storage capacity, however, the government is planning to build a "centralized storage pool," which will collect and keep all the nation's spent fuel, Chong said.

Though not much publicized, the government has been ambitious with its nuclear-power plant program.

The government has plans to build 18 more nuclear power plants by the year 2006, Deputy Prime Minister and Economic Planning Board Minister Choe Kak-kyu told the Assembly. Choe heads the National Atomic Energy Commission, the nation's highest policy-making body on atomic energy.

But Choe denied the opposition's allegation that the government plans to build 50 nuclear plants by 2030.

Meanwhile, opposition Democratic Party spokesman No Mu-hyon was worried that athe government has given up developing core nuclear technology—which is, reprocessing knowhow—which is integral to the independent development of the national economy.

The government has been promoting nuclear energy as the future energy source that it says will power the nation "cheaply and cleanly."

But citizen activists protested that it will damage the environment and endanger human lives.

Japan, ROK To Expand Atomic Energy Cooperation

SK1511063291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan have agreed to press North Korea through diplomatic channels to sign a full-scope nuclear safeguards accord at the earliest date and to expand cooperation in the field of atomic energy.

The accord came in a meeting of the joint atomic consultation committee in Tokyo on Wednesday and Thursday, a Foreign Ministry spokeman said Friday.

Noting that atomic energy is a crucial source of electricity in both nations, they agreed to intensify cooperation to ensure security, confidence and economical efficiency in the pursuit of atomic energy power generation.

Yi Chong-mu, director-general of the Korean Foreign Ministry's International Economic Affairs Bureau, headed the Korean side and Hiroshi Ohta, deputy director-general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Science and Technology Bureau, was his opposite number on the committee.

No Praises Japan's Stance in DPRK Talks

OW1911100591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0949 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 KYODO—South Korean President No Tae-u told a visiting Japanese delegation Tuesday that he appreciated Japan's attention to the North Korean nuclear inspection issue in talks with Pyongyang this week in Beijing.

No told a Democratic Socialist Party Delegation (DSP), headed by former DSP Chairman Saburo Tsukamoto, that North Korea's nuclear facilities posed a threat not only to South Korea but also to Japan, the Soviet Union, and China.

Japan and North Korea opened the fifth round of normalization talks Monday in Beijing. Japan was expected to press Pyongyang to comply with international inspection standards for its secretive facilities north of the North Korean capital.

No also reminded the Japanese legislators that during his May visit to Japan, Tokyo officials promised to try and reduce South Korea's trade deficit with Japan as well as to work on increasing technology transfers to Seoul.

He noted, however, that South Korea has logged its biggest trade deficit yet with Japan and urged Tokyo to take steps to produce visible results by the end of the year.

Financing Delays Hold Up Exports to USSR

SK1211045991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0313 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (YONHAP)—Shipment of consumer goods purchased by the Soviet Union with tied loans from South Korea is being held up by delays in opening of letters of credit, Korea Foreign Trade Association officials said Tuesday.

As part of a 3 billion-U.S.-dollar economic aid package to the Soviet Union, 23 Korean companies signed 29 contracts with Soviet firms for 389 million dollars of consumer goods after the Soviet Foreign Economic Bank (Vneshekonombank) guaranteed payment.

As of Monday, however, not a single shipment had been made because of the delay, prompting exporters to seek ways around the problem, they said.

Ssangyong Corp., which was to ship 8 million dollars of shoes and other consumer items, has 4 million dollars of footwear sitting in warehouses. Ssangyong has asked the government if it can ship them based on the contract if a letter of credit (L/C) is not forthcoming.

Daewoo Corp. and Lucky Ltd. are asking the Korean Government to either expedite the opening of the L/Cs by the Soviet bank or change the terms of their contracts to documents against payment or documents against acceptance, which would do away with the need for L/Cs.

Hyosung Corp. and Samsung Co. Ltd. want the government to actively intervene.

Of 3 billion dollars promised to the Soviet Union by 1993, 8 million dollars is due by the end of December. The officials fear that not even one-third of it will be paid by that time.

Firms Seek To Expand Investments in Vietnam

SK1511043491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0257 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—Growing optimism that an end is near for the U.S. embargo on Vietnam has driven South Korean companies into a flurry of activity, industry sources said Friday.

Daewoo Group Chairman Kim U-chung visited Hanoi in May and June, and was followed by frequent trips by group task forces to negotiate joint-venture hotel, automobile, textile and electronics businesses. The group's main project is to build an assembly line for buses and trucks.

The sources said Samsung was to send a 10-member market survey team headed by group Vice Chairman Ti Pil-kon to Vietnam on Nov. 20-26. They are expected to discuss a Vietnamese offer to build a 3,500-ton freighter.

Kia Motors, the no. 2 Korean automaker, is to supply parts and technology to Vietnam Motors Corp., a 70-30 joint venture between the Vietnamese Government and Colombia Motors Corp., Kia's Philippine partner.

Halla Engineering and Heavy Industry is reportedly involved in negotiations with Vietnam's Union Cement Co. on constructing a cement factory near Hanoi with annual production capacity of 1 million to 1.5 million tons, they said.

Byucksan Corp. has initialed a contract to build a seven-story office/hotel building in Hanoi, according to the sources.

A Korean consortium set up by Korea Petroleum Development Corp. and eight private firms is seeking permission to take part in the development of oil fields in southeast Vietnam, the sources said. The other members are Samsung, Hyundai, Lucky-Goldstar, Daewoo, Sunkyong, Ssangyong, Hyosung and Yukong.

The incentives are cheap and competitive labor, rich natural resources (including oil and coal) and a government that respects Korean economic growth, business officials say.

They say they expect the United States to resume trade with Vietnam early next month and for Vietnam to become a major center for trade with Laos and Cambodia.

Textile Exports to PRC, USSR, SRV Increase

SK1411143991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0815 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 14 (YONHAP)—South Korea's textile exports to current and former Communist nations amounted to 346 million U.S. dollars in January-September, up 33 percent from a year earlier, the Korea Textile Industry Association (KTIA) said Thursday.

China, which has yet to sign a bilateral trade pact with Korea, bought most textile goods at 199 million dollars, followed by the Soviet Union (44 million dollars) and Vietnam (36 million dollars), KTIA said.

Despite the lack of diplomatic relations, exports to Vietnam soared 187.7 percent from the like period last year and exports to Poland and Romania almost doubled to 32 million dollars and 30 million dollars, respectively, the association said.

Exports to these nations accounted for 2.3 percent of all textile exports in the first nine months, an increase of 0.8 percentage points from last year.

Government Lifts Travel Restrictions to Albania

SK1911054691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0533 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (YONHAP)—South Korea will drop Albania from a list of countries that Koreans need special permission to visit, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Albania would be removed from the list Dec. 1 to expand bilateral exchanges as Korea and the nation set up ambassador-level diplomatic ties in August, he said.

China, Vietnam, Laos, Cuba and Cambodia which lack diplomatic relations with South Korea are the only countries still on the list, he said. North Korea is a special case.

North Currency To Be Accepted for Trade Payments

SK1911062191 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 19 Nov 91 p 7

[Text] The government intends to assist North-South exchanges by such means as accepting the North Korean won as payment for North-South trade beginning next year.

According to the relevant authorities, on 18 November the government decided to accept the North Korean won, along with the U.S. dollar, as payment in North-South trade so that the payment for goods sold in inter-Korean trade can be made through local financial institutions. The government decided on this policy to facilitate North-South trade and in view of North Korea's shortage of foreign exchange.

Based on this policy, the government is planning to repurchase, beginning next year, the North Korean won purchased by local financial institutions in the course of trade with North Korea, utilizing the North-South cooperation fund, so that the financial institutions can purchase North Korean won without worries.

At the same time, the government is planning to pay for goods imported from North Korea with the repurchased North Korean won to prevent North Korea from paying for the goods imported from the South solely with North Korean won.

The government is expected to regularly announce the exchange rate for the U.S. dollar and North Korean won so that the financial institutions may purchase North Korean won at a reasonable price. The government is also planning to help local businesses conduct trade negotiations with the North.

According to a relevant government official, North Korea has three types of exchange rates for its won against foreign currencies, namely, the trade exchange rate, the noncommercial exchange rate, and the official exchange rate. He said that the rate of North Korean won will be decided mainly based on the trade exchange rate.

North Korea's official exchange rate, which now stands as 1-1.3 won to a U.S. dollar, is decided without regard to the actual value of North Korean won, while the trade exchange rate is roughly 2.1- 2.3 won to a U.S. dollar, thus showing a considerable difference between the official and commercial exchange rates. Meanwhile, only two local firms, namely Haetae Sangsa and Taehan Fire Insurance Company, have so far applied for the North-South exchange and cooperation project since the Law on North-South Exchange and Cooperation was legislated in July 1990.

More Raw Materials Imported From North

SK1511012691 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Nov 91 p 8

[Text] The trading arms of Korea's conglomerates are expanding imports of steel, zinc and other raw materials from North Korea, a shipping industry sources said yesterday.

Samsung Co. bought 5,000 tons of steel from North Korea in September and 1,500 tons of zinc lumps in October, and will buy 2,300 tons of zinc and 3,000 tons of steel products this month.

Ssangyong Corp. imported 5,000 tons of iron lumps in September and 1,500 tons of zinc lumps in October, and will purchase 5,000 tons of iron between late this month and mid-December.

Daewoo Corp. bought tin via Vietnam in July.

Japan and Hong Kong are the main channels for imports involving local agents or the conglomerates' subsidiaries. Hard currency is used in most transactions, business officials say.

Major forwarding ports are Chongjin, Nampo and Hungnam in the North and destinations are Inchon and Pohang in the South.

Defector Describes North Diplomats' Smuggling

SK1211054591 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Nov 91 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Hye-won]

[Text] Stories of smuggling by North Korean diplomats are nothing new. From the mid-1970s until recently, countless North Korean diplomats have been expelled from foreign countries for illegal trafficking of drugs and other goods.

As recently as last March, a North Korean diplomat couple were apprehended by police in Malmo, Sweden, for possessing 1kg of heroin.

Two North Korean diplomats assigned to Albania were also reportedly caught by Yugoslavian customs officials around that time for carrying tens of bottles of French cognac.

Many diplomats are also involved in smuggling and other contraband activities to raise money for embassy expenses and to send back to Pyongyang.

Western statistics say that a total of some 80 cases of smuggling involving North Korean diplomats were detected in some 40 countries from 1971 to 1991. The goods involved include heroin, gold bars, wine, cigarettes, watches and electronic products.

The North Korean leadership in Pyongyang has been fully aware of these illegal activities, says Ko Yonghwan, a North Korean diplomat who recently defected to the South.

He says North Korean Ambassador to Lebanon Kim Pong-kon had been caught at an Egyptian airport carrying 10,000 Seiko watches. But he has kept his position as ambassador, for he "donated" all the money he made from sales to Kim Chong-il, the son and heir-apparent of North Korean President Kim Il-song.

Kil Chae-kyong, who was North Korean ambassador to Stockholm, was expelled from Sweden for dealing in heroin. But Kil is now deputy director of the party's international bureau.

"If they are caught they are branded as betrayers. But if they succeed and offer the money to Kim, they get promoted," says Ko.

Kim uses the money to support his cohorts and buy luxury goods from abroad. Kim, according to Ko, likes to drink "Evian," French bottled water, and eat imported fruit and gourmet food such as caviar.

Kim also enjoys "distributing" money to his followers, he says.

Illegal dealings involving North Korean diplomats date back to as early as the mid-1970s, Ko says. North Korean diplomats working abroad, at that time, were ordered to "donate" foreign currency to build a Kim Chong-il gym in the heart of Pyongyang.

While called a gymnasium, it was actually intended to be a leisure facility equipped with bowling lanes, tennis courts and even a casino. Chang Song-taek, brother-in-law of Kim Chong-il, was in charge of the secret project, only known to the party's international bureau and the Foreign Ministry.

"The so-called foreign currency-earning project by North Korean diplomats then began in earnest. They were ordered to donate a certain amount of money to finance the gym project. Who could disobey when Chang was in charge?"

Construction cost an amount of money that may be beyond the imagination of a Seoul business tycoon, he says. Only imported materials, some from Japan but mostly from Western Europe, were used.

When the gym was nearing dedication, it was completely destroyed by a mysterious fire, Ko recollects.

But the North Korean diplomats' foreign currency project did not stop there, he says.

Some diplomats continued their dealings to line their own pockets, he says.

North Korean diplomats in the early 1970s were better off, according to him. Their pay was not so bad then and they didn't feel the need to save foreign money as they had enough food and daily necessities back at home.

But since the early 1980s decreasing salaries have forced many diplomats to involve themselves in the trafficking of drugs and illegal transaction of other goods for survival, Ko says.

Western reports said North Korean diplomats working abroad are paid an average of $300 to $500 a month. Some are not paid in time.

"Many North Korean diplomats are still involved in smuggling. The difference is that they are now extremely careful and therefore, not caught so often," he says.

Ko says he heard that a North Korean agency specializing in political maneuverings against South Korea is still involved in heroin trafficking. He says the agency, called "Samho (No. 3)," is led by Yun Ki-pok, a party secretary in charge of South Korea.

The agency is under the direct control of Kim Chong-il.

South Korean intelligence sources recently revealed that North Korea cultivates heroin for illegal export.

Defector Discusses North's Economic Troubles

SK1411025291 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Nov 91 p 6

[Article by business editor Chong Pong-uk: "Economic Troubles Began To Bud in Early '60s With Inception of 'Taean Management System' by Kim Il-song"]

[Text] In the eyes of Ko Yong-hwan, a North Korean defector, troubles in the North Korean economy started to develop in the early 1960s, with the inception of the "Taean Management System," which Pyongyang claims is the chuche-oriented creation of the "Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song."

"The management formula enhanced the role of the workers' (Communist) Party in running plants or businesses, with responsibilities shared equally by the manager and the local party leader," said Ko, former North Korean career diplomat, in an interview.

North Korea trumpeted the management system, which is said to be introduced by Kim himself, during his visit to an electrical appliance plant named Taean, located in Nampo City near Pyongyang, in December 1961, as an unprecedented revolutionary management formula.

"As time passes," Ko went on, "the party men have become increasingly more powerful than the managers and eventually plants and other business concerns fell fully under the party control, leaving the managing experts on the scene as machinery only to follow instructions from the party cadre."

The managers can hardly take disciplinary action against troublesome workers and are often excluded from the decision-making process, he says.

"Under these conditions, how can the managers do their best in running the plants?" he asks.

The North Korean defector also revealed that in an extreme case, a section chief at the Party Central Committee, which is headed by Kim Il-song and controlled by his heir-apparent son, Kim Chong-il, is more powerful than a minister.

The serious trouble in the management system is an apparent factor behind the slumping North Korean economy, North Korea watchers in Seoul say. They estimate that the North Korean economy grew 2.7 percent in 1985, 2.1 percent in 1986, 3.3 percent in 1987, 3.0 percent in 1988 and 2.4 percent in 1989 despite Pyongyang's repeated claims of economic success.

An attempt to see the whole picture of the North Korean economy nowadays through the testimony of a defector from the North, who has worked in the diplomatic arena, may be absurd or unfruitful. But it will be helpful to learn about the economic situation facing North Korea hidden behind an iron curtain.

The trouble in the management system might be indicated by the ailing farming sector as revealed by a reported North Korean move to import hundreds of thousand tons of rice from Thailand and another gesture to bring in 100,000 tons of rice from South Korea.

Asked about the reasons for troubles developed in the agricultural sector in recent years, the North Korean defector said a poor supply of tires and fuel for farming machines is among the factors behind the trouble.

"North Korea has boasted of a high level of mechanization of farming but an increasing number of cows and bulls are employed in the North for farming," said Ko.

Farming experts in Seoul estimate the North's rice production in 1989 to be about 5.5 million tons against the 6 million tons in demand.

"Lack of motivation for farmers' brisk production may be the more serious factor responsible for the farming failure," he said.

According to Ko, until two or three years ago the North Korean farmers have been paid in grains and cash, in a certain proportion.

"But now they are given an increased deposit in their bankbooks, instead of cash, and they cannot draw their deposits freely," he explained.

Asked about the role of Kim Chong-il in the economy, Ko said he got the impression that the economy is outside his area although such party secretaries as Pak Nam-ki, Chon Pyong-ho and So Kwang-hui under his control are virtually in charge of the economic affairs.

"I think Kim Il-song still maintains a strong voice in the economy," he added.

North Korea watchers in Seoul also believe Kim Chong-il controls all but the economy, although his father heads the government as president and the party as general secretary.

Mentioning prospects for trade and economic cooperation between the divided halves of Korea, the North Korean defector said, "Brisk direct trade between Seoul and Pyongyang is unlikely to take place in the near future unless the North Korean rulers end the isolation of the people from the outside world."

As seen in articles written by Seoul reporters after a tour of Pyongyang, the North Korean public believes North Korea is economically superior to South Korea, which they were told is still full of beggars.

The North Korean regime is reluctant to let the people know the state of North Korean society in comparison with other countries, notably South Korea, fearing the adverse impact the news of South Korea's prosperity might have on the political leadership, Ko said.

North's Food Shortage Called 'Near-Famine'

SK1411082491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0731 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Beijing, Nov. 14 (YONHAP)—Hungry North Koreans are breaking into state-run food warehouses with increasing frequency and the hardline Communist leadership is telling everyone to "tighten your belt before eating" because of the near-famine conditions, Western visitors returning from Pyongyang said Thursday in the Chinese capital.

Due to six consecutive crop failures, North Koreans can get only one to three days of food with ration tickets that are supposed to stretch for 15 days, they said.

In February, a North Korean family of four fled to the Chinese border city of Tuman seeking food. When the Chinese authorities ordered them to return, they killed themselves, the Westerners said.

"The North Korean economy is on the verge of collapse. It is in its worse ever food crisis," one of them said, refusing to be identified.

The North Korean authorities had launched a campaign to get everyone to cinch their belt before sitting down to eat and the television program "Science Common Sense" had told viewers with a straight face that dining after loosening one's belt raised the possibility of contracting cancer and was harmful to the liver, they said.

Kim Chong-il, heir-apparent and son of President Kim Il-song, recently asked his father to seek economic exchange with South Korea to combat the crisis but was reprimanded, they said.

The sources said prospects were bleak for systematic change in North Korea or active economic exchange with the South as long as the septuagenarian dictator was alive.

A whirlwind of change would hit North Korea within six months if Kim Chong-il took over after his father's death, they said, advising Seoul to be prepared for traumatic events such as an exodus of starving North Koreans to the South.

Police Shelve Plan To Distribute New Guns

SK1911022191 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Bowing to public outcry, the National Police Administration [NPA] has shelved its plan to distribute new revolvers firing rubber bullets and tear gas powder this month to some police stations and substations in Seoul.

A spokesman for the agency said yesterday that the plan will be reconsidered after conducting sufficient safety tests over the next several months.

The first batch of 35 new pistols were originally scheduled to be distributed to police facilities near universities which are frequently attacked by student protesters with firebombs and rocks.

Shelving of the plan followed news reports warning that people could lose their eyesight and, in the worst case, their life, if hit by a rubber bullet in the eye or other vital parts of the body.

The NPA had previously said the rubber bullets and tear gas powder were not fatal. They said that a rubber bullet could knock people to the ground for a brief moment but has no power to break bones or inflict fatal damage.

The agency had also claimed that people would suffer only minor bruising even if directly hit by a rubber bullet within its effective firing range of 20 meters.

The tear gas revolver has a shorter effective range of 15 meters, the NPA said.

Once exposed to the tear gas powder, it said, people would be disabled for a moment, experiencing difficulty breathing and keeping ones eyes open.

The decision to postpone distribution of the new firearms was made at an emergency meeting yesterday of related NPA and other government agency officials.

The NPA will conduct safety tests on the new revolvers, using such animals as dogs and pigs, an NPA official said.

The tests will be carried out by the state research institute dealing with firearms, such as the Agency for Defense Development.

The new firearms will only be distributed when the planned tests sufficiently prove that they can not inflict fatal damages, the official said.

The new firearms will make it a lot easier for police to arrest criminal suspects without firing real ammunition.

The key target of the new firearms, he said, are students who stage violent street protests and attack police facilities.

Arresting these students has been difficult, he said, because they use "hit-and-run" tactics usually at night.

The new weapons are known to be produced by local firearms makers.

Kim Tae-chung Views Domestic, Regional Issues

SK1211050691 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Nov 91 p 1,2

[Report on interview with Kim Tae-chung, chairman of the Democratic Party, with THE KOREA TIMES on 11 November in Seoul]

[Text] Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung has called on the four powers, deeply interested in the Korean question to help both South and North Korea to stamp out hostility, establish peace and pave the way for reunification.

Yet he stated that their role should remain supportive and the two Koreas should take the initiative in solving their own problems. He boldly forecast the setup of a loose confederation between the divided parts of the peninsula by the middle of this decade in a firm prelude to complete reunification.

Kim, 65, chairman of the unified opposition Democratic Party, discussed this and other domestic and regional issues in an interview with The Korea Times at his office yesterday.

"Since my challenge for the presidency in 1971, I have demanded a guarantee of peace and stability on the peninsula by the four surrounding powers. But peace and reunification of the peninsula are basically our problems to which we have to find a remedy ourselves with their cooperation," he said.

He urged the four countries—the United States, Japan, the Soviet Union and China—all involved in Korea's over-four-decade- long split, to declare they will not use nuclear weapons on the peninsula nor support aggression by each side, and will encourage both Seoul and Pyongyang to seek eternal peace.

"If they stop military supplies, neither part could beef up its arsenal. The South and the North should take the path of ending military buildups and war and instead gradually approach reunification. In the course of this we have to take the lead and the four powers can only cooperate."

He billed as irrelevant to the Korean case a two plus four arrangement, the German unification formula, on the grounds that the cause of Korea's separation was totally different from that of Germany's and Korea needs no endorsement by the four powers in its pursuit of reunification.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker suggested it might be applicable to Korea, in an article in the latest edition of an American diplomatic journal, Foreign Affairs.

Noting that President No Tae-u's non-nuclear doctrine last week and George Bush's earlier plan to withdraw nuclear warheads from the South, would reduce North Korea's worry, Kim, No's top political opponent, maintained that North Korea should open its nuclear installations to international inspection.

"As North Korea signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, it should open its facilities to neutral inspection. It is not right to refuse examination by linking the obligation with the U.S. nuclear umbrella offered to the South. It may discuss the matter instantly after signing the safeguards agreement," he viewed.

He assessed inter-Korean accord on the title and form of a basic framework for reconciliation, nonaggression and cooperation at the end of the prime ministers' talks in Pyongyang late last month as a "good start" for long-sought breakthroughs in the stalemated Seoul-Pyongyang relationship.

"I dare say that the South and the North will establish a loose confederation by 1995, the 50th anniversary of their liberation from Japanese rule. After the first phase of unity, they are expected to dash to an American-style federation and eventually to a complete reunification under one government of one state."

As to growing U.S. pressure on the opening of the Korean rice market, he expressed strong complaints about what he sees to be a low profile by the No administration.

"The administration is assuming a too feeble, low-key posture. A top government negotiator has indicated that we have no option but to open the rice market and some Cabinet ministers harbor similar opinions," he said.

The import of rice is a highly sensitive issue for politicians both in the ruling and opposition parties ahead of elections with more than 7 million people engaged in rice growing directly and indirectly.

"The opening of our farm produce market at once, demanded by the Americans, would deal a decisive blow to our rural community. I agree with the standpoint of

John Galbraith that the agricultural industry should be the target of protection and not subjected to free trade," he went on.

Kim, who merged his southwestern-based New Democratic Party with Yi Ki-taek's Democratic Party with a power base in the rival southeastern area in September, observed that the chance of a power shift to a purely civilian leader is higher at present than ever before.

He judged that the military has now lost a toehold in politics, the Taegu-Kyongsangpuk-to clique which has reigned the country for 30 years has become incapable of running the state due to many failures, in particular in economic policy, and the opposition camp is shaping up to take over from the old power group.

"We have to head in the direction of democratic progress, economic growth and national reunification in the coming years, to all of which we are more suited than the government party. I am convinced of smart wins in next year's elections for Assemblymen, and mayors and governors which will assure us of a triumph in the presidential vote."

Introduction of Vice Presidency Urged

SK1211062391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0537 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 11 (YONHAP)—Ruling party co-chairman Kim Chong-pil said Tuesday a constitutional revision was necessary to introduce a vice presidency and do away with the post of prime minister.

"I think it is better to have a vice president as the United States does than to have a prime minister with little power," Kim, an ardent advocate of a cabinet system of government, told reporters at his home.

Kim said a cabinet system of government was more desirable for the political development of parties, indicating that he had suggested creating a vice presidency because revision of the Constitution to set up a cabinet system was rendered virtually impossible by the opposition's merger in early September.

Similar proposals to amend the Constitution to introduce a vice presidency and a runoff presidential election have been raised by opposition leader Kim Tae-chung and Sports and Youth Minister Pak Chol-on.

Analysts suspect that Kim's remark may herald a reshaping of the power structure before next year's four elections.

"The current five-year single term for president is extremely long. I think that having two four-year terms is more desirable," Kim said.

Ruling Party Seen Vulnerable on Economic Issues

SK1911020191 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Nov 91 p 2

[The "Out and About" column: "Jitters About Consumer Prices"]

[Text] When the opposition speaks about the economic difficulties facing the nation, the ruling party gets the jitters.

With the trade deficit widening, consumer prices soaring and housing costs skyrocketing, the nation's economy has now become the Achilles' heel of the government party of a nation once known for its spectacular economic growth.

And the opposition Democratic Party [DP] is increasingly using the government's vulnerability on the economy to brighten its prospects for beating the ruling Democratic Liberals in the elections next year.

DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] lawmakers are rattled, foreseeing the kind of campaign that will be waged against them next year.

DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae yesterday strove to put the best face on the opposition salvo, which last Saturday defined the past four years under the President No Tae-u government as a "total failure."

"They were not decent expressions befitting representatives of a political party," said Pak. He was referring to the press conference last Saturday by DP co-leaders Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek.

"While they call it a total failure, we think the past four years of the incumbent government is an overall success," Pak asserted challenging the opposition estimation of the economy.

If there have been any failures, they are inevitable byproducts of the wide-ranging democratization that the nation has experienced during past several years, Pak argued.

During the Saturday joint press conference, the first since the inauguration of the DP, Kim and Yi said that the government's performance in the last four years boil down to a "total failure."

They sounded warnings against what they dubbed "apocalyptic phenomena"—skyrocketing consumer prices, hellish traffic congestion, life-threatening environmental pollution and 'bankruptcy of law and order.'

The DP co-leaders argued that the internal power struggle of the ruling party is creating public disillusionment with politics.

There are still some 1,300 prisoners of conscience behind bars. The government's pledges to rewrite the undemocratic National Security Law and launch economic reforms are nowhere to be seen, they argued.

As the No regime enters its last year of rule, the labyrinth of political instability borders on "anarchy," they said. The government's frequent fluctuations on important national issues only add to public confusion.

Behind all these uncertainties and instability lurks the No regime's dark intention of prolonging its grip on power, they argued.

Kim and Yi insisted that the government, while craving excuses for its total failure in domestic politics, is capitalizing on what little achievement it has had with foreign policy. They warned the government not to use such national issues as reunification and diplomacy for political gains.

Meanwhile, DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam offered advice for the carping opposition.

The executive chairman called for a "it's-my-fault" attitude. "The current economic hardships can be overcome when we, politicians, bring together our wisdom rather than passing the buck to others," he told DLP members of the National Assembly Science and Economy Committee yesterday.

Kim Yong-sam, a potential presidential candidate, has been recently increasing contact with DLP members and called for support for President No and the party leadership on major political issues.

He stressed the need for party unity around No to help him in his democratization and unification drives.

Wage Stabilization Top Economic Priority in 1992

SK1311103391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0746 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu, calling for a pay freeze, said Wednesday that wage stabilization would be next year's top economic priority in order to restore industrial competitiveness.

"The current state of the economy requires strong actions such as a wage freeze led by large enterprises, which tend to pay higher salaries," said Choe, who is also economic planning minister.

Small firms were suffering a labor shortage, which was aggravated by steep pay raises in recent years and a wage gap with big companies, he said, warning that the government might restrict loans to large firms that increased pay "too much."

"Blame should be put on firms that raise wages to a level that hurts the business itself," he said. "Stable wages promise stable prices."

He said there was no difference between a nominal wage hike and actual pay, suggesting he intends to reform the current wage system as it complicates calculation of real earnings.

Underground Economy Said 19-40 Percent of GNP

SK1611084591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0621 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—A government economic research organization says the size of the country's so-called underground economy is about 19 to 40 percent of the gross national product.

The National Institute for Economic System and Information said Saturday that it estimated the nation's underground economy to be around 38 trillion to 79 trillion won since this year's GNP is projected to be 198 trillion won.

In a report on conspicuous consumption and real estate speculation, the institute said that when the size of the underground economy goes over 10 percent of GNP, a government's financial policy and economic planning could seriously be disturbed by it.

The term "underground economy" was coined to cover a huge bulk of money whose transactions do not appear in national income statistics. It includes earnings in real estate speculation, interests on private moneylendings and bank deposits under assumed names.

The institute, which is a think tank for the Economic Planning Board, said the burgeoning underground economy has been one of the leading factors that have been destabilizing prices and fanning overspending on luxurious foreign products.

The institute said a strong measure against real estate speculation is the no. 1 priority to help stop the growth of the underground economy and solve the problem of conspicuous consumption.

Burma

PRC Aerospace Delegation Continues Visit

SLORC Chairman Receives Delegation

BK1911144491 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Senior General Saw Maung, chairman of State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], received Mr. Lin Zongtang, minister of aerospace industry, and his delegation from the PRC. The meeting took place at the Dagon Yeiktha hall of the Ministry of Defense at 0900 today.

Also present on the occasion together with Sr. Gen. Saw Maung were Lieutenant General Tin Tun, SLORC member and minister for transport and communications and labor and social welfare; Major General Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; and Thura U Aung Htet, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department.

Accompanying Mr. Lin Zongtang to the meeting was Mr. Liang Feng, PRC ambassador to Myanmar.

Calls on Trade Minister Abel

BK1811144691 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Mr. Lin Zongtang, minister of aerospace industry of the PRC, and members of his delegation, accompanied by Mr. Liang Feng, PRC ambassador to Myanmar [Burma], and staff members of the PRC Embassy, called on Brigadier General Abel, minister of planning and finance and trade, at the Ministry of Trade at 1000 today.

During the meeting, frank and cordial talks were held on bilateral economic and trade matters.

Also present at the meeting were U Maung Maung Kyaw, director general of the Directorate of Trade; U Min Aung, adviser to the Ministry of Planning and Finance; and other responsible officials.

Commentary Examines 'Disunity' Within Military

BK1611125591 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1345 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Derek Brookwavel commentary]

[Text] The official Myanmar [Burmese] news media have been elaborately presenting news about the recent battles between the Karen rebels and the Myanmar Armed Forces in the delta region near Yangon [Rangoon]. As a result of the battles and engagements which occurred at various places in the lower delta region, many soldiers and rebels including civilians have been killed. Observers who at first suspected the KNU [Karen National Union], claim that local people who oppose the government had joined them wherever they went. And government news reports appear to reveal the reason behind these claims by repeatedly and continuously urging the local people on the need for cooperation.

Initial government news reports appeared to claim that with the cooperation of local people the Defense Services Armed Forces had decisively crushed the KNU infiltration. Later, however, the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] government reports indicated they did not receive such cooperation. Presently, they suggest that if the local populace cooperate, the Defense Services would be able to decisively crush the insurgents. Official news reports have also admitted that there are still some KNU hardcores in the delta region. Although the LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN daily confirmed civilian deaths, they said those killed were not innocent civilians because the innocent civilians had already left their villages and sought refuge elsewhere before the Defense Services began the attacks.

The newspapers also reported that the KNU armed the villagers and gave them military training to enable them to resist the Myanmar Defense Services. Lately, the SLORC reports contain more racist propaganda, especially toward the Karens. The delta region is largely inhabited by the Karens.

The civilian willingness to support the armed insurgent units comes at a time when signs of disunity within the Defense Services are beginning to appear. In the last elections, the majority of the Defense Services voted for the NLD, the National League for Democracy. Many officers are also beginning to believe that the time for compromise has come before the tendency for revenge increases between the Defense Services and the people. However, the military government has given no indication of wanting to compromise. Instead, in recent weeks, they have been issuing warnings against disunity within the Defense Services. These warnings have even replaced the economic propaganda news on the pages of the LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN. So, it appears that the concern for possible division within the Defense Services has become real for the military government.

On 28 October, at the coordination meeting with the chairmen of the state and divisional law and order restoration councils, regional commanders, and divisional commanders, Senior General Saw Maung in a speech said called for the preservation of one's integrity though there are others who have lost it, and not to violate the laws though others may be doing so. His words were carried by the newspapers the following day in bold letters on the first page. The military government used the same method in dealing with dissident civilians, monks, and international opposition in response to dissent within the Defense Services. Once those who are likely to show opposition are marked, the military government will brutally remove them from the scene before they can gain any strength.

The Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence headed by Major General Khin Nyunt is very active within the

Defense Services. Officers have been given questionnaires regarding their political views and were told to answer and sign them. Under this threat, nobody dared to give their sincere views. Inspite of that, there are reports that some officers have been transferred and removed because their answers were thought to be inappropriate. Although these purges appear to be successful for the present, these methods and actions are likely to give rise to the growing dissatisfaction of an opposition. It is not possible to give orders and expect the 250,000-strong Defense Services to follow them to the letter. There is a threat that the regional military commands may break away from the Central Command Headquarters. That is why the Special Forces are being formed as hardcore defenders of the military government in case of a major opposition within the Defense Services. At the same time there is growing speculation on the possible emergence of differences of opinion within the military government. The isolation of the military government is likely to increase and dissatisfaction among its members is likely to grow. However, at present, the military clique as a whole, think they are safe with their backs against a brick wall.

Late MP Dropped From Elected Officials List

BK1511100991 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Announcement No. 976 of the Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], dated 14 November 1991]

[Text] Subject: Announcement removing the late People's Assembly Representative U Soe Nyunt, from the list of elected representatives.

U Soe Nyunt of the National League for Democracy, who was elected from Tavoy Township Constituency-1, Tenasserim Division, during the multiparty democratic general elections passed away on 10 November 1991. His name has therefore been removed from the list of elected People's Assembly Representatives.

By the authority vested in me,

Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Rally Protests East Timor Shooting Incident

BK1811163291 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] About 20 people who represented several social and political organizations held a rally in front of the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur today to present a protest note against the shootings of civilians by Indonesian troops in East Timor on 12 November. One of them, (Chua Tian Chiang), was arrested when he unfurled a banner saying: "Stop the killings in East Timor." (Chua) was then taken to the Jalan Banda Police Station. Police also seized several other banners.

The protesters included (Sivarasa Rasiah) of the Malaysian People's Voice; Fan Yew Teng, former secretary general of the Social Democrat Party; Professor Syed Hussein Ali, chairman of the Malaysian People's Party; and Prof. Mohamed Nassir Hashim, lecturer of the Malaysian National University. They held the rally at 1330 and one hour later they were allowed to enter the embassy compound to present their protest note to the embassy staffers.

Singapore President Begins State Visit 19 Nov

BK1911115091 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] President Wee Kim Wee of Singapore has arrived in Kuala Lumpur for a 4-day state visit to Malaysia. President Wee and his wife were met at the airport this morning by Education Minister Datuk Amar Dr. Sulaiman Daud and his wife. Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed was scheduled to call on Mr. Wee at his official residence this afternoon. Mr. Wee will have an audience with the king, Sultan Azlan Shah, in the evening and will later lay a wreath at the National Monument.

Mr. Wee's itinerary tomorrow includes visits to the Sultan Sallehuddin Mosque and the Proton car plant, both in Shah Alam, Selangor.

Singapore

Hong Kong Governor Arrives on Official Visit

BK1811134491 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] The governor of Hong Kong, Sir David Wilson, is in Singapore for a two-day official visit. Sir David will call on the prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, at the Istana [palace] this evening before attending a dinner given by Mr. Goh. Tomorrow, Sir David will call on the senior minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, and the deputy prime minister and minister for trade and industry, Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong. Sir David will also meet the minister for information and the arts, Brig. Gen. George Yeo.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Sends Message of Thanks to Hun Sen

BK1611093091 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] On 14 November His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, sent a message of thanks to

His Excellency Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers. The message [words indistinct] reads:

Most Beloved Excellency: I am happy to express great thanks [words indistinct] the homecoming of me and my wife [words indistinct] fully and with historic success of the our glorious Angkor. I and my wife will remember this in our hearts [words indistinct] sincere national reconciliation of Your Excellency and your wife, a [word indistinct] factor [words indistinct] toward me and my wife.

Sihanouk: Parties of Hun Sen, Ranariddh Allied

BK1711042791 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0347 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 17—Prince Norodom Sihanouk said that there are two particular parties, the Cambodian People's Party and the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], which will probably be the majority in the National Assembly to set up a government without the Khmer Rouge.

Addressing a press conference here Saturday evening, the prince said the Cambodian People's Party and the FUNCINPEC are two separate parties, but in case they won the majority of seats in the National Assembly they would form a bilateral government (the Hun Sen- Ranariddh government).

Prince Sihanouk, who was accompanied by Prime Minister Hun Sen back from Beijing, arrived in Phnom Penh on November 14 after more than a decade in exile.

The prince, who called Prime Minister Hun Sen his son, said the party of Hun Sen and the party of Ranariddh had been allied.

On the trial of the Khmer Rouge leaders, he said: "It is up to the new government to be formed after the general elections to decide." The elections would be a trial because the results of the elections would be serious judgment by the people, the prince said.

He mentioned an international tribunal proposed by some U.S. congressmen, during his recent visit to the United States, to try and declare Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Ta Mok guilty of the crimes of genocide against innocent people.

The prince said he fully supported the suggestion for setting up an international tribunal to judge and hold the Khmer Rouge leaders responsible for the death of many innocent people.

The prince, who was elected chairman of the Supreme National Council, a body grouping the four Cambodian factions, said he would not object to the exclusion of the Khmer Rouge from the SNC, if the permament-five so decided.

Prince Sihanouk praised the positive and beneficial development obtained over the past years by the Cambodian People's Party, and the resurrection of religions, especially of Buddhism, in the country.

On the Cambodian people's living conditions, the prince said: "Whether poor or rich, all the people no doubt look very happy and are well protected by the state, the government and the administration." "They have the right to own plots of land given by the government," he added.

Referring to political power, the former monarch said: "I want to be the president of the Republic of Cambodia, but not the kind of the Third or Fourth French Republic."

"I do not want power, I want the National Assembly to exercise power, and I want to be a nominal president," he said.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk pointed out: "We, the whole people of Cambodia and even Sihanouk and Monique Sihanouk would have been killed if the Vietnamese had not intervened."

He said he would go to Hanoi and Vientiane to accompany Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh to sign accords of friendship relations with those two neighboring countries on the principles of peaceful coexistence set by the Bandung Conference in 1955.

Sihanouk: Contacts With All Countries Welcomed

BK1911010691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], held a news conference on 16 November in the palace.

During the news conference, the samdech said that Cambodians are staunch people who are capable of rebuilding Cambodia.

The samdech added that from now on, Cambodia will open its doors to contacts with all countries in the world on the basis of mutual benefits.

The samdech thanked the PRC, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the international community for making every effort to enable Cambodia to enjoy peace with genuine independence and sovereignty.

The samdech said he was waiting for all SNC members to come in order that they might meet to discuss and decide on the urgent work of the SNC.

Son Sen, Mak Ben Arrive in Phnom Penh 17 Nov

BK1911012491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] His Excellency Son Sen, member of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], and his colleagues arrived in Phnom Penh on the morning of 17 November in order to set up a permanent office in Phnom Penh in line with the decision of the SNC meeting held in Paris on 23 October under the august chairmanship of SNC Chairman Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Answering questions from many journalists at Pochentong Airport, His Excellency Doctor Mak Ben, member of the SNC Secretariat, who accompanied His Excellency Son Sen to Phnom Penh, said: we have come to Phnom Penh in order to join hands with other SNC members in order to fully implement the peace agreement aimed at ending the Vietnamese war of aggression. This is our biggest goal.

Dr. Mak Ben pointed out that Cambodia has entered a new historic stage. The past problems are gone; all of us should look to the future.

His excellency expressed his belief that the other three Cambodian parties as well as the Democratic Kampuchean party will certainly strive together to build Cambodia into a peaceful, unified, and democratic country with genuine independence and territorial integrity.

His excellency added: We are not worried about security because we are all compatriots. No one wants to fight against each other. All of us want to be reconciled on the basis of the policy of great national union and by jointly implementing the agreement correctly and effectively under the leadership of the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Son Sen Feels 'Very at Ease'

BK1711024191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0224 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 17 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge military chief Son Sen arrived here Sunday, the first Khmer Rouge cadre to return to the Cambodian capital since Vietnamese troops drove the genocidal faction from power in 1979.

Son Sen, accompanied by senior Khmer Rouge official Mak Ben, bodyguards and other staff, arrived at Pochentong Airport aboard a regular flight from Bangkok.

Asked if he feared for his safety in Phnom Penh, which was emptied at gunpoint by the Khmer Rouge when they seized power in 1975, Son Sen replied: "No, no. I'm very at ease."

The Khmer Rouge defense minister was surrounded by a crush of journalists when he arrived, but no demonstrators were at the airport.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has said he feared violent demonstrations would greet the Khmer Rouge, who return under a United Nations-brokered peace plan calling for representatives of all four Cambodian factions to meet in Phnom Penh.

Cambodian Deputy Foreign Minister Sok An, whose government was installed in Phnom Penh by the same Vietnamese troops who ousted the Khmer Rouge in January 1979, greeted Son Sen.

Son Sen, whose arrival date had not been precisely announced in advance, was whisked downtown in a black limousine surrounded by police in jeeps and motorcycles with sidecars.

"I'm going to stay here for good because I'm returning home," said Mak Ben, a senior Khmer Rouge official accompanying Son Sen.

"I have no concern for my safety because this is national reconciliation."

Khieu Samphan, the official head of the Khmer Rouge faction, was expected to arrive here around Friday to take his seat on the Supreme National Council (SNC), which groups the Phnom Penh government and the three factions that have been fighting to oust it.

The Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge killed hundreds of thousands as they tried to transform Cambodia into a pure communist state overnight.

The leader of the faction's murderous 1975-79 rule, Pol Pot, is still believed to be directing the movement from a headquarters on the Thai-Cambodian border.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, a former ally of the Khmer Rouge in a resistance coalition who is now the neutral president of the SNC, said Saturday he supported "100 percent" the idea of trying Pol Pot for genocide before an international tribunal.

The prince, who returned from exile Thursday, also said the Sihanoukist faction led by his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, had formed a political alliance with the Phnom Penh regime—a move that would work against the Khmer Rouge.

Hun Sen, Sihanouk Speak at Kandal Orphanage

BK1811101391 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Speech by Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, at an orphanage in Kandal Stoeng District of Kandal Province on 17 November—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and the royal consort, prince, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear children:

Today, I am honored to accompany the samdech and his royal consort to visit all of you here.

I am honored to inform all children that the samdech and his royal consort have long planned to meet with, first of all, the poor people, including the orphans. We presented a program to the samdech to ask for his opinion. The thing that impressed us most is that in the program the samdech returned to us, the samdech and the royal consort added schedules for their visits to the orphans, the sick, and the poor. This is evidence clearly reflecting the samdech's kindness toward his people since time immemorial.

Today, I want to inform all children that for the past several years, all of you have had the party and government as your father and mother. Now, you must feel even more secure to have an additional father or grandfather, mother or grandmother. Even the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government have asked the samdech to be their father. Now, all of you will have an additional father, that is the prince father and princess mother. That is to say that you will have the father of fathers. [applause]

The government's difficulties have been reduced a little thanks to the royal missions in social and various humanitarian fields which have lately been carried out arduously by the prince father and his royal consort. During the recent disastrous flood, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and his consort, in addition to their personal contributions, appealed for aid from the international community. Therefore, the aid given to the people in Kandal Province was obtained thanks to the samdech's lofty mission to provide flood relief for his children. [applause]

I, in the name of the government which has to shoulder acute social problems left behind by the Pol Pot clique, including over 250,000 orphans under our care here and in various camps [sentence as heard]. Although it is true that many orphans have now grown up, married, or taken jobs, many orphanages still exist throughout the country. However, with the samdech's visit here and his permanent royal mission inside the country, I am convinced that we will have some relief. This does not mean that the government tries to avoid doing its job. But, (?this relief will occur among) the orphans whose parents died even before their children knew them.

Children, please forgive me for signing the agreement. This signing certainly included the murderers who killed our children. Today, these murderers are to arrive in Phnom Penh and tomorrow, their ringleader will also arrive in Phnom Penh. Therefore, please forgive your uncle for this. I promise not to let this barbarous regime kill you again. But please forgive me. (?I did not want to) sign the agreement, but a political situation directed me to do so [words indistinct]. I would like to ask you to refrain from using violence. It is better to eliminate violence rather than to take revenge enlessly. I shed tears because of remorse but I promise not to let anyone kill you again. The political solution requires participation by all parties, including the murderers. It is not my responsibility nor that of our samdech. The plan of the big powers compels us to accept this undertaking. Since we also think that this plan is quite reasonable, I decided to sign the agreement with the (?Cambodian faction which includes) the murderers.

Today, the murderers have returned to Phnom Penh. More of them are coming tomorrow. But, please, children, have consideration for me, for the samdech. We did not want to sign, but the political trend directed us to do so. I very much understand your feelings. You have told me that you are still angry. But in this situation, I would like to appeal to you not to be vengeful, for a vendetta never pays. If we continually seek revenge, when will we, Cambodians, have peace? If they kill our fathers and we take revenge by killing theirs, this vengeance will never end. Therefore, you should understand this situation. However, the samdech, the royal family, including Prince Norodom Ranariddh—the samdech's son who is also here— had a clear discussion with me that we will not allow the barbarous regime to return. There is a difference between preventing the return of the Khmer Rouge men and the return of the Khmer rouge regime. We should strive to prevent only the return of the murderous regime. As for men among the Khmer Rouge ranks who have changed, we should accept them among society and the nation.

I am very worried, worried that the orphans who have now grown up and have jobs will resort to violence to take revenge. I am afraid that they might seek revenge against the Khmer Rouge leaders coming to work in the SNC [Supreme National Council]. Children, please excuse us for this. We have done this because of the political situation, but I resolutely promise you that I will not allow a recurrence of the Pol Pot regime. Please trust us. We still have the samdech, the CPP, and the SOC Government. In the future, we will have a new government from the election and we still have Hun Sen who will absolutely not allow the genocidal regime to kill you again. [applause]

Now, we have the prince father whom you can call the prince grandfather, or prince great-grandfather for you who are still very young. Since your fathers call him the prince father, you should call him grandfather or great-grandfather and his wife as the princess grandmother or great-grandmother. However, you must now feel more secure than ever before. I, who have contributed to helping you, will continue making contributions so that you will feel more secure. That which I would like to ask from you is nothing new. It concerns the same old problems I used to ask you, orphans throughout the country, to face. I am not asking for something that you cannot do. What I want you to do is to become good citizens in our country. That is, I want you to suppress your vengeful feelings, violence, and antagonism. You should use nonviolence to put off violence, use calmness to put off antagonism. Do not use revenge which will only create more problems upon those still unsolved problems.

I think that this voice will be heard by many of you, orphans inside or outside the centers. I do not want instability to prevail in our country because of revenge. Moreover, I have some (?advice) for you:

1. I want you to be good students when you are attending school seeking general or vocational knowledge.

2. I want you to be good grandsons and granddaughters whenever you deal with the people who are the same age as your own grandfathers or grandmothers. I want you to be good grandsons and granddaughters for those who are as old as uncles or aunts. I want you to be good sons and daughters whenever you deal with those who are as old as your own parents, to be good elder and younger brothers and sisters when contacting people who are older than you, and to be good friends when dealing with those of your own age. And you should be good brothers when dealing with those younger than you.

These are the points I would like to ask you to follow. My final request is to the many of you who have already married and some others growing up. If you are married, I want you, men, to become good husbands and good fathers to your own children, and women to become good wives and good mothers to your children. If you are not yet married but have lovers, I want you to be good and sincere lovers. Do not quarrel with each other. [applause]

I want to leave more time for our prince father, prince grandfather, and prince great-grandfather to talk to you, so I am ending this address now and would like to express profound thanks to the samdech and the royal consort for their visit here. I would like also to thank the prince, all excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, including those French and (?Australian) persons present here to give us assistance. Now I would like to invite the samdech to say something to your children and great-grandsons and granddaughters present here. [applause]

Sihanouk Urges Support for CPP

BK1811143191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk to the Cambodia-France-Hungary Friendship Orphanage in Kandal Stoeng District on 17 November—recorded]

[Text] I pay my humble respects to the people, to all my most beloved and missed children; my respects to His Excellency [HE] Hun Sen, head of the Government of the State of Cambodia [SoC], and Madame; to all personalities, excellencies, madames, ladies, gentlemen, and all my brothers and children.

First of all, allow me to express on behalf of my wife, my son Prince Ranariddh, my daughter, and all my entourage our greatest emotion in being able to visit Kandal Stoeng District of Kandal Province and be in direct contact with all the young boys and girls and my grandchildren living in this orphanage under the excellent care of the SoC Government and the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]. I take the opportunity of this wonderful occasion to express my thanks to my most beloved HE Prime Minister Hun Sen for organizing this visit after organizing a program of grand receptions for me over the past few days. This is a significant program that permits me to come today to this wonderful provincial seat, this wonderful district, this wonderful orphans' city in response to my request made during our meeting in the Kingdom of Thailand and later on in the PRC.

I also take this occasion to affirm that I have received the cordial, sincere, and affectionate invitation from the CPP, from the people who are living in the warm embrace of the CPP and of the SoC Government, and from HE Chairman Chea Sim, Chairman Heng Samrin, and Chairman Hun Sen, asking me to become the head of the Cambodian nation as in the period prior to the coup d'etat of Lon Nol and Prince Sirik Matak. I have been asked to be the father and my wife the mother of the Cambodian nation again. I have also been given the greatest honor by the CPP and SoC headed by HE Chea Sim, HE Heng Samrin, and HE Hun Sen, who asked me to be the father of the CPP and SoC. [applause]

It is in this capacity that I have the great fortune of visiting Kandal Province and coming to Kandal Stoeng District after staying with my children in Phnom Penh, the capital of our state. I feel very moved coming here because of my memory of those times before the coup when I was in contact with you and when I inaugurated this great hall, which was an important achievement of our past movement called Sangkum Reas Niyum. Moreover, I am moved to see the excellent arrangements made by the SoC—our new state—and the CPP, which are your parents besides me in taking care of all of you, my grandchildren.

HE Prime Minister Hun Sen, my most beloved son, in his extremely significant speech made just now described the history of this city and the noble objective of this center that our great friends France and Hungary have helped built. I bow down in tribute and gratitude to our great friends France and Hungary. [applause]

My most esteemed HE Chairman Hun Sen has already explained all the past events and situations that have victimized all of you. You have thus learned all about the bitter history, about the recent past during which the CPP started rebuilding the country. I do not have to deal with all of that again. If you understand the view and mind of HE Hun Sen, who is my son, you certainly understand the view and mind of your Samdech Father. The two of us are of the same mind and have identical views.

Allow me to inform you that here I see with great satisfaction the fact that all of you are helping in the reconstruction for the sake of my orphaned grandchildren. As the lady director of this city said in her speech, we are still very much short of things to meet the demands of livelihood and education and requirements for the future of the children, some of whom have already left the center for a better life with honor, thanks to the care and support of the CPP and SoC Government.

These needs, as well as the needs of our people in general, are real, but they have been gradually alleviated, on the one hand, thanks to the highly patriotic and tireless efforts of the CPP and SoC, which have started from scratch in search of a solution to the problems of the people, bringing them happiness and peace. On the other hand, we are thankful for the assistance of the international community and countries friendly to Cambodia and the Cambodian people who have helped us solve everything in Paris with the signing of the peace treaty for Cambodia. This solution has already been found, but there are still some difficulties. However, HE Hun Sen has already explained everything to you.

What I want to say here is that if we had great needs before the Cambodian problem was solved, the signing of the peace accord in Paris on 23 October surely has opened the door for greater possibilities for us to receive more considerable humanitarian and economic aid from the international community, from the United Nations, and from rich friendly countries. Many countries have informed me that they will give even more consistent and richer aid for the rapid socioeconomic development of our country. [applause]

As in the case of the recent serious floods, HE Hun Sen on behalf of Cambodia asked me to help get humanitarian aid to assist our children who were suffering as a result of the natural disaster. I did my best to contact many countries, and in my official address I appealed to the whole world to send aid to the SoC. Many countries responded and sent aid to the SoC, which correctly distributed it to various areas in Cambodia to provide relief for our suffering people.

From now on we will receive additional social, humanitarian, and economic aid. Therefore, when this aid arrives the CPP and the SoC Government will make fair and correct arrangements to distribute it to the needy provinces, districts, communes, and towns. I would like to express my satisfaction with the way HE Hun Sen, HE Chea Sim, and HE Heng Samrin took care of the aid.

In my return to the country, as I have already said in my speech in Phnom Penh and as you all know very well, I do not wish to interfere in the country's politics or in the affairs of the SoC or CPP at all. I return, as HE Chairman Hun Sen has said, as the father of the nation, as the head of the motherland. I come in order to help my children in social, humanitarian, and reconstruction efforts so our nation can revive its links to the Angkor period.

I trust HE Hun Sen, HE Chea Sim, HE Heng Samrin, the CPP, and the SoC 100 percent. You do whatever you think best. What you have already done, as I see it, is great. It has brought development to the people, who are living happily in freedom. I have seen the smiling faces both in Phnom Penh and in the countryside along the roads I have traveled. Some foreign newspapers have claimed that there is coercion on the people to do this or that. But there is not. Humans cannot be forced to joyfully do things against their will. You cannot force people who are afraid to not be afraid. I know that; I had first-hand experience during my three and a half years as the special guest [Sihanouk laughs] of the former regime.

It was extremely distressing under the former regime—even if the people were shouting Long Live! Long Live! Some of my children in the factories that I visited approached me, embraced me, and kissed me, telling me they missed me very much. Once I left the place, they were all disposed of right away just because they kissed me. However, I see with my own eyes that those who came to kiss me yesterday and the day before since I landed in Pochentong have not suffered anything for doing so. [Sihanouk laughs]

This is because you are lucky to have good leaders. Good leaders are the happiness of our people and nation. I am 70 years old now. If the CPP and the SoC and the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] Party, which is an ally of the CPP...if the children trust me as HE Hun Sen has, on behalf of the CPP, I appeal to you: Vote for me to be president in 1993. Vote for me to be the real parent of the nation and the state from 1993 to 1998, a mandate of five years, in accordance with the presidential mandate. If they trust me the people and the nation can extend this for another five years. [applause]

However, I am old now. I want to tell you that now I am happy. In the past I was worried about having a successor. I am old now and I want to have a successor who can lead the nation correctly so we can have total independence and total territorial integrity, have our religion, Buddhism, and become as prosperous as other countries. I was worried about having a successor. Now I am satisfied. My mind is at peace and I can die anytime with my eyes closed. This is because there are such important sons as HE Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh and there are major parties such as the CPP. And all of you children under their care are well educated, know right from wrong, and have good dispositions. I am boundlessly happy. My mind is at peace. In the past I had some worries. Now I am confident that our future is sure to become one of peace, development, honor, and prestige commensurate to that of the Angkor period.

In conclusion, HE Chairman Hun Sen has made arrangements for my present visit with you. This is a historic occasion for me. We make joint donations as we form the same family now. That is, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the CPP, and the SoC Government jointly give the following gifts to the children in the Cambodia-France-Hungary Friendship Orphanage: Allow me to read the envelope as follows: We the SoC and the CPP present to the Prince Father six million riel to be donated to the center. [applause] [mostly indistinct passage on list of gifts donated to the orphanage] And I personally donate 500 U.S. dollars. [applause] I do not know how much this is in riel currency. [whisper heard in the background] Yes, more than 600,000 riel. [Sihanouk laughs amidst applause] I wish all of you, my beloved children, the best of health, success in your studies, and a bright future. [applause] I pray to the three jewels of Buddhism to help preserve the CPP, the SoC, HE Chairman Hun Sen and Madame, HE Chairman Chea Sim and Madame, HE Heng Samrin and Madame, excellencies, madames, ladies, gentlemen, brothers, children, aunts, uncles, grandmothers, grandfathers, and grandchildren. May all of you enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha. Thank you. [applause]

Hun Sen on Assassins' Attempts on His Life

BK1711113191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1120 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 17 (AFP)—Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen said Sunday assassins have tried to kill him nine times in the last 13 years.

"They realized they cannot overthrow us by military means and in an election they cannot prevail so they tried to kill me," the prime minister told a news conference.

As recently as May a group was paid seven million dollars and sent to the capital to kill him, he said.

They are being held by the Phnom Penh government, he said.

"These people cannot be released because they have committed terrorism that the whole world despises," Hun Sen said.

The attack was ordered May 28 soon after a ceasefire plan to end Cambodia's civil war was agreed to in Jakarta, he said.

The Khmer Rouge, forces loyal to former prime minister Son Sann and those following Prince Norodom Sihanouk—who has since returned from exile and become neutral—were allied in a 13-year civil war to oust the Phnom Penh government.

They signed a peace treaty to end the war last month.

Hun Sen would not say who tried to kill him or give specifics about the May assassins.

"Since 1979 this has been the ninth time of attack on my life, but each time those attacks were not from the forces of Prince Sihanouk, but rather from the other two factions," he said.

"For the other eight attempts, some have been captured, some have not," he said.

Hun Sen said he would report the prisoners to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, (UNTAC) which is to take up supervision of Cambodia beginning in May.

"If UNTAC feels that they should be free, that will be the responsibility of UNTAC," he said.

Hun Sen also said he feared that the Khmer Rouge would force refugees back from the border into areas they control to pad the ranks of their army ahead of the 70 percent demobilization mandated by the peace plan.

"This will be a test of the ability of UNTAC," he said. "Whether UNTAC can control this situation ... and make sure all the guns come out of the jungle."

Hun Sen, a former communist guerrilla commander, also said he would not object to restoring Prince Sihanouk to the Cambodian throne.

"In the past I loved and respected the king," he said. "I engaged in the resistance after the monarchy was overthrown in 1970."

Prince Sihanouk, who abdicated as king in favor of his father in 1955 but continued to lead the country until his overthrow in a 1970 military coup, said Saturday he would resume the throne if that was what all the Cambodian factions wanted.

Hun Sen challenged the claim of Son Sann, leader of one of the non-communist guerrilla factions, that there were more than one million Vietnamese living in Cambodia after the official withdrawal of Vietnamese troops in September 1989.

The actual number is about 90,000, Hun Sen said.

"Son Sann has told Sihanouk that anyone who speaks Khmer with a Vietnamese accent, should be expelled. If anyone has to be expelled from Cambodia Son Sann will be the first because his Khmer has an absolutely Vietnamese accent."

Hun Sen offered to provide financial assistance to journalists who wanted to spend four or five months in Cambodia verifying the number of ethnic Vietnamese.

Sihanouk Visits Phnom Penh Hospital, Orphanage

BK1911112391

[Editorial report] Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian at 1300 GMT on 18 November carries a 101-minute report with portions recorded on the visits made by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and wife to an orphanage and a hospital in Phnom Penh.

The announcer starts by saying that "on the morning of 18 November 1991, Samdech Preah Norodom Shanouk and wife, accompanied by His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of the both the National Assembly and the front National Council, and wife, royal relatives, and entourage, went to the Kolap Ti Muoy Center and the Calmette Hospital in Phnom Penh."

Upon arriving at the orphanage, Sihanouk was greeted by officials from the Phnom Penh party committee and the center and was entertained by a dance performed by orphans. Afterward, "Sim Ka, chairman of the Phnom Penh City party committee and chairman of the Phnom Penh City people's committee" read a speech welcoming the delegation and reviewing the orphanage's history.

In a 53-minute recorded speech, Sihanouk starts by expressing his "profound gratitude to H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and wife" for accompanying him on the visit. Sihanouk then briefly refers to the "unfortunate event which took place prior to the establishment by state authorities of the CPP in our country to continue from the Sangkom Reas Niyom [name of Sihanouk's former party] when we used to work together with solidarity, when we had complete peace with independence and territorial integrity, and worked to develop the nation in every field with honor. Now, thanks to the CPP and the State of Cambodia's Government, with H.E. Chairman Chea Sim, H.E. Chairman Hun Sen, and H.E. Heng Samrin—outstanding national leaders—we are linked to the past when we were glorious during the Sangkom Reas Niyom era. We will work together to build our nation in the future linking this to even the Angkor era." [applause]

Sihanouk praises the efforts of the current party and government and their achievements, to "continue the mission of the Sangkom Reas Niyom." Talking about the Cambodian situation, Sihanouk says: "In my role as chairman of our Cambodian SNC, I do not have the right to criticize the Pol Pot Government, which set up state authorities in our country from 17 April 1975 to 6 January 1979. I have no right to criticize. I have the duty to reconcile all our Cambodian parties, bring them together, defend independence, territorial sovereignty, national honor, and unite to rebuild the country." Sihanouk adds that he will do this "in accordance with the agreement we have signed together with the international community, particularly with the superpowers, permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] in Paris on 23 October 1991."

Sihanouk then speaks for about 18 minutes on the suffering of Cambodia and its people since the Lon Nol and Pol Pot era, citing some episodes of his life in exile in the struggle against imperialism. He recounts his trip to Cambodia in 1973 with top Khmer Rouge leaders, and his hardship and torment under the Khmer Rouge regime prior to Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia, comparing himself to the common people saying that "my family and yours, all of us have suffered." On his life in exile and involvement with the Khmer Rouge, Sihanouk says: "I and my wife were looked after by the PRC until today when I return to serve the nation at the invitation of H.E. Chea Sim, H.E. Hun Sen, and H.E. Heng Samrin. Thus in my records I have never done anything which can lead to the conclusion that I colluded with the Khmer Rouge. Quite the opposite. I have never ever colluded with the Khmer Rouge."

Referring to the episode when he was leader of the tripartite Cambodian resistance, Sihanouk says: "I dared to talk to H.E. Hun Sen. The Son Sann group scolded me; some ASEAN members were very angry with me. I and the PRC almost did not see eye to eye. In 1987, I dared to embrace and kiss Hun Sen. It was from 1987 that we planned together to build the nation together. This has now been achieved in 1991." [applause] Sihanouk adds: "In 1991, when the PRC and the SRV—who previously were at odds with each other—are reconciled, we have our chance to be free. When China and Vietnam quarrel, we will die. When China and Vietnam are reconciled, we will live."

Prior to ending his speech, Sihanouk talks about the time when he was deposed by Lon Nol and informed about the event by Soviet Premier Kosygin and the hard time he had to endure during his stay in the royal palace under the Khmer Rouge regime.

Sihanouk then spends approximately four minutes talking about his efforts to get aid for Cambodia and ends the speech with a long list, handed him by Chea Sim, of donations for orphans and the orphanage staff.

After the recorded speech, the announcer says "the samdech and wife visited orphans' living quarters and other areas of the Kolap Ti Muoy center" and afterward, "go on to visit the Calmette hospital" where the delegation was warmly welcomed by the crowd and "Yim Chhaili, member of the CPP Central Committee and health minister" who briefs the delegation on the history of the hospital, foreign assistance, and the efforts of the hospital staff in a seven-minute recorded speech.

After this, Sihanouk speaks for 20 minutes to the audience. In this recorded address, Sihanouk starts by thanking "H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and wife" for accompanying him on this visit. He expresses his happiness and thanks for the warm welcome and mentions "His Excellency Ambassador of the French Republic" among foreign guests, members of foreign humanitarian organizations, particularly those from the Medecins du Monde organization. Sihanouk "most warmly" praises Cambodian medical staff for their efforts in the public health sector and for making "all kinds of sacrifices in accordance with the fine discipline of the CPP and the State of Cambodia's Government with H.E. Chairman

Chea Sim, H.E. Chairman Heng Samrin, H.E. Chairman Hun Sen—outstanding leaders—to alleviate our people's suffering." Praising the current Cambodian Government, Sihanouk adds: "I am very moved to see that the CPP with H.E. Chea Sim as chairman, the State of Cambodia's Government with H.E. Hun Sen as chairman, and their outstanding colleagues, including H.E. health minister and his colleagues, have made great efforts in cooperation with our foreign friends."

Sihanouk then talks about his past and present efforts in the public health sector when he was in power and says: "Now that we are together, I, H.E. Chea Sim, and H.E. Hun Sen will work together every day to solve all problems in various fields of our nation's life." "In fact, since becoming chairman of our Cambodian SNC, I have been working, wasting no time, not even one minute, in particular cooperating with H.E. Hun Sen, our nation's prime minister. We have worked in Jakarta and Phatthaya in June 1991, from Thailand to Beijing, from Beijing to Paris/New York and from New York to Paris." Discussing his personal goals, Sihanouk says: "As I have said, I have come back to be a parent of the nation—because H.E. Chea Sim, H.E. Hun Sen, and H.E. Heng Samrin have asked that I become a parent again—and I have clearly stated that in the administrative affairs of the country, of the State of Cambodia's Government and the People's Party, I would like to specially assist in two fields, humanitarian, such as public health, and in national reconstruction." Sihanouk then recalls his own efforts and personal contributions to assist the Cambodian people, citing his appeal for foreign aid, and confirming that this aid will be forthcoming.

Before closing his speech Sihanouk reiterates that "I am very satisfied with the great activities to assist you in public health and the great sacrifices made by all levels of the public health ministry. I thank you, children, and congratulate you. Please be informed that aid will flow in from abroad." [applause] Sihanouk ends his speech with a long list of donations to the hospital.

After Sihanouk's recorded speech, the announcer says that "about 1100, the samdech and his wife ended the visit to the two places and returned to the royal palace with emotion and happiness after learning about the progress of society and the nation under the leadership of the CPP, the State of Cambodia's Government."

Appeals for International Aid

BK1811120091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1148 GMT 18 Nov 91

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 18 (AFP)—Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk launched an appeal for international aid here Monday as he visited a hospital that the Khmer Rouge emptied at gunpoint in 1975.

"Only 500 doctors survived until 1979," when invading Vietnamese troops ended four years of Khmer Rouge terror, the prince said.

The Phnom Penh Government has trained 200 more doctors, but Cambodia still desperately needs medical staff and supplies, he said.

"I appeal to the international community to be a force in rebuilding Cambodia," he said during a visit to Calmette Hospital.

Prince Sihanouk said he would solicit foreign aid first and foremost for public health and social welfare.

When Khmer Rouge guerrillas took over the Cambodian capital on April 17, 1975, they forced the population of Phnom Penh out of the city.

Foreigners sheltering at the French Embassy, next to Calmette, watched in horror as hospital patients—on crutches, stretchers, wheelchairs or rolling beds—were driven at gunpoint out toward the countryside, where most perished.

The Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge killed doctors, nurses and other educated people as they tried to transform Cambodia into a pure communist agrarian state overnight.

Prince Sihanouk said that China, France, Japan and Thailand were among several potential donor countries.

"Before I flew to Cambodia the Chinese told me: China is going to send development aid to Cambodia," said the prince, who arrived here Thursday from Beijing after 13 years in exile.

He also praised France for helping renovate Calmette Hospital, which was built during France's colonial rule.

China's longstanding support for the Khmer Rouge made the group the most powerful of the resistance factions that fought to oust the Hanoi-installed Phnom Penh Government.

But under a United Nations-brokered peace agreement signed October 23, a Khmer Rouge leader has returned here to sit alongside Phnom Penh officials on the Supreme National Council (SNC), a reconciliation body grouping the four Cambodian factions.

In another symbol of reconciliation, Prince Sihanouk, formerly head of the resistance and now president of the SNC, visited Calmette arm-in-arm with Chea Sim, leader of Phnom Penh's ruling party.

"Since I became president of the SNC, Hun Sen and I have joined together to resolve the problems still facing Cambodia," he said, referring to the Phnom Penh premier.

"I appeal to the international coummunity to support the cooperation between me and Hun Sen" in rebuilding the war-ravaged country, he said.

The 69-year-old prince cancelled visits to two more hospitals in the afternoon, taking a rest from a grueling program of public appearances that he has maintained since returning here.

He was to accept the credentials of North Korea's ambassador to the SNC during the evening.

Sihanouk Applauds Australian Role in Peace

BK1611075691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0705 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 16 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the head of Cambodia's interim authority, Saturday applauded Australia's role in the Cambodian peace process, officials said.

The officials attended a meeting between the former monarch and Richard Butler, Australian ambassador to the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia's rival factions.

They quoted Prince Sihanouk as saying he "appreciated very much the role Australia played in the peace process."

Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government and a tripartite guerrilla coalition dominated by the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge last month signed a peace treaty in Paris ending their 13-year civil war.

Butler, the Australian ambassador to Thailand, was accredited to the SNC after Prince Sihanouk stepped down as head of the guerrilla coalition to become the neutral president of the council.

Australia has played an active role in Cambodian peace negotiations which resulted in the Paris agreement, under which the United Nations is to guide Cambodia to elections in early 1993.

Group of Chinese Diplomats Arrive in Phnom Penh

BK1911013291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] A few days ago, a group of Chinese diplomats arrived in the capital, Phnom Penh. The purpose of these Chinese diplomats' trip to Phnom Penh is:

1. To arrange the former Chinese embassy in Cambodia as the PRC Embassy attached to the Supreme National Council [SNC] headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

2. To prepare for the upcoming visit to Cambodia of Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

U.S. Envoy Presents Credentials to Sihanouk

BK1911063891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] On 18 November, Mr. Charles Twining, U.S. special envoy to Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], presented his credentials to SNC Chairman Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in order to be established as a diplomatic envoy attached to the SNC.

DPRK Ambassador Gives Credentials to Sihanouk

BK1911071091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0347 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 19—The Democratic People's Republic of Korean ambassador, Kim Lylung Ryoul, presented here his credential letter to SNC Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk on 18 November.

Mr. Ryoul was the fourth ambassador to have presented his credentials to the prince after the French, Australian and Thai chiefs of the diplomatic mission to the SNC.

At the ceremony, Prince Sihanouk said that he would do his best to help make the North Korean ambassador's diplomatic mission a success.

The prince expressed his conviction that the relations of friendship and solidarity between the peoples and leaders of the two countries would be consolidated and develped with every passing day.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who returned to Phnom Penh November 14, had been sent into exile in North Korea and China for more than a decade.

Son Sann Views Upcoming Return to Phnom Penh

BK1811111291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], said that during his upcoming return to Phnom Penh, he will invite monks to hold religious rites at the former Tuol Sleng prison in Phnom Penh in order to pay homages to the souls of the Cambodian people who died miserably due to the genocidal acts.

His Excellency Son Sann said this after ending his three-day visit to Site 2 and Sok San camps, which house approximately 200,000 refugees loyal to the KPNLF.

His Excellency Son Sann plans to make a trip to Phnom Penh this week in order to attend the SNC meeting. The Son Sann-led SNC delegation representing the KPNLF has received a reply from the Hun Sen party in Phnom Penh saying that no accommodation for the Son Sann group is available.

Observers saw this as an attempt to prevent His Excellency Son Sann and Mr. Ieng Muli from entering Phnom Penh on time.

However, His Excellency Son Sann said that he would make every effort to be in Phnom Penh on time no matter what kind of a place might be available, because he is a leader of the fighters who have struggled for over a decade in order to drive the Vietnamese out of Cambodia and to seize rights and freedoms for the Cambodian people.

Answering a question on whether he expects the KPNLF to win in the coming elections, His Excellency Son Sann said that noncommunist factions will certainly enjoy the support of the Cambodian people. He added: I myself will do anything that my boss, the Cambodian people, allow me to do. My present concern is the rearrangement of Cambodia's economy so as to help the Cambodian people who are experiencing shortages.

Son Sann: 1 Million Vietnamese Still in Country

BK1611003691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 2300 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] The Voice of the Khmer [VOK] radio newsroom has received a report saying that His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], said the day before yesterday that there are now about a million Vietnamese people living illegally in Cambodia.

His excellency expressed concern about the Vietnamese presence in the country during his visit to Site 2 Camp which houses some 190,000 Cambodian refugees.

Accompanied by his wife and aides, His Excellency Son Sann was briefed by the commander of Thailand's Cambodian refugees protection unit 882 on a plan to repatriate the refugees under the KPNLF administration.

His Excellency Son Sann told reporters that the Cambodian people are very happy peace has returned to the country. He added that the Cambodian people should further work hard to achieve a permanent peace in Cambodia. The people are still worried about the danger due to the presence of one million Vietnamese people who have illegally taken up residence in Cambodia since 1979.

His excellency further said that he expected to go to Phnom Penh on Sunday 18 November although he has no place to stay there.

Mr. Hun Sen's faction, in charge of organizing the meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia at the end of this month, has said that it has no accommodation available for other factions.

KPNLF Ministry Criticizes Hun Sen Attitude

BK1911145191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Nov 91

["Response" by the Information Ministry of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front: "Something Unthinkable"]

[Text] In a recent interview with journalists, His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia [SNC], said he had learned that more than one million Vietnamese still remain in Cambodia at present, and that this should be settled for the sake of Cambodia and the Cambodian people's future. The worldwide circulation of H.E. Son Sann's remark has brought boundless joy to Cambodians living everywhere, including those inside Cambodia. However, according to foreign journalists in Phnom Penh, as has now become customary for him, Mr. Hun Sen became vehemently angry with H.E. Son Sann.

People wonder why was Mr. Hun Sen angry? It was something unthinkable. The Information Ministry of the KPNLF reserves the right not to believe the report about Mr. Hun Sen's anger because it is widely known that Mr. Hun Sen is a Cambodian who speaks Khmer fluently, who knows Khmer very well. It is unlike him to come out in defense of the interest of Messieurs Do Muoi, Vo Van Kiet, and Nguyen Van Giap. If this were true, then we would like to draw the following conclusion: Mr. Hun Sen certainly does not have the heart of a Cambodian patriot; otherwise, Mr. Hun Sen must still continue to work under the manipulation of the Vietnamese.

People go on to wonder: If the Vietnamese stay in Hanoi, why is Mr. Hun Sen so frightened? This surely proves that not all the Vietnamese have left Cambodia. Thus, what H.E. Son Sann said was correct. The Vietnamese might have left Chamka Mon [Presidential Palace], but there are still plenty of Vietnamese in O Russei Market, along the Tonle Sap and Mekong Rivers, and so on.

We recall that once before Mr. Hun Sen was very angry with H.E. Son Sann when the latter announced that Vietnamese troops remained in Cambodia. Hun Sen at that time insolently charged that Son Sann was too senile and had a bad memory to the point of forgetting that the Vietnamese had already completely pulled out in 1989. On this point, we understand that if H.E. Son Sann really grows mentally weak, he becomes so for the right cause. He is concerned with national interest, he does not sell his soul to the aliens, he does not betray the nation, he is not corrupt, and he does not shamelessly steal from others in broad daylight, and so on.

How can the issue of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia be settled? It is the SNC that must solve it; it is the UN Transitional Authority that must help solve it; it is H.E. Son Sann who must solve it; and it is people like Mr. Hun Sen who must solve it. Therefore, the report alleging that Mr. Hun Sen continues to support the Vietnamese is something unthinkable at a time when the Vietnamese chief commander had packed up and left Phnom Penh even before the arrival of the SNC.

Let us work to promote the sense of nationalism; let us Cambodians smooth out our speeches and attitude toward each other so that we can live in peace and happiness.

14 Nov 'Historic Day' Toward Recovering Peace

BK1611051591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Station article: "The Supreme National Council of Cambodia Headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk Has Already Had Its Headquarters and Begun Its Function in Phnom Penh"]

[Text] The Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia chaired by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk is the unique legitimate organ and source of power representing Cambodia's national sovereignty and independence during the transitional period. Now the SNC has already had its headquarters and has begun functioning in Phnom Penh.

On Thursday 14 October, SNC Chairman Samdech Norodom Sihanouk arrived in Phnom Penh from Beijing to start the SNC's functions in line with the accord, signed in Paris on 23 October 1991, for ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia. All the SNC members from the tripartite resistance forces have arrived in the Cambodian capital city one after the other following the samdech's homecoming so as to correctly and scrupulously implement the accord to close the books on the Vietnamese war of invasion of Cambodia. As such, the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has started its work in Phnom Penh from now on.

The entire Cambodian nation and people inside and outside the country are profoundly moved and happy and have considered 14 October 1991 a historic day on which Cambodia recovers peace and security and regains its total sovereignty and territorial integrity and the Cambodian people are reconciled and united as a whole in an environment of great national union without discriminating against any Cambodian political parties, whether they are black, white, red, or blue. This means that there is only one Cambodia jointly striving to rebuild the country and nation, which have been systematically devastated during the nearly 13 years of the Vietnamese war of aggression. Near and distant friendly countries worldwide, including the ASEAN states and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, are prepared to acccredit their envoy to the SNC headed by the samdech.

Those events clearly show that the entire Cambodian people inside and outside the country and the peace- and justice-loving countries the world over recognize only the SNC chaired by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the unique legitimate body in Cambodia. That being the case, civilian, military, and police officials from top to bottom, previously forced by the Vietnamese aggressors to serve them everywhere, must join the SNC or return home to reunite with your families. You must turn yourselves into citizens who love the nation and people as your fellow compatriots.

Pol Pot Said To Have Returned Secretly

BK1911085891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0849 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Bangkok, Nov 19 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot has secretly returned to his base camp in western Cambodia while Phnom Penh was celebrating the return of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, a Khmer Rouge spokesman said here Tuesday.

He added that Khieu Samphan, Pol Pot's most trusted confidante and the leader of the Khmer Rouge delegation on the interim Supreme National Council (SNC), was also in western Cambodia.

Informed sources here said it was believed the two men were holding discussions ahead of Khieu Samphan's arrival in Phnom Penh to take up his place on the SNC, a body set up under the United Nations peace plan signed last month.

Khieu Samphan was originally expected to arrive in Phnom Penh on Monday, but his return was delayed, with the Khmer Rouge spokesman saying only that he would return shortly.

The Khmer Rouge report that Pol Pot, among the world's most reviled despots, had left his protected house in Thailand, near the Thai-Cambodia border, confirmed remarks made Sunday by Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin.

Asa, answering questions from journalists about whether Thailand would arrest the 65-year-old who oversaw the slaughter of more than a million Cambodians during his bloody four-year reign, said any arrest would be the responsibility of the Cambodians.

The foreign minister said Pol Pot was no longer in Thailand but was now in Cambodia.

Informed sources said Pol Pot is believed to have returned to Cambodia within the past few days.

Ever since he was forced to flee for his life when Vietnam invaded Cambodia in December 1978, Pol Pot has spent most of the time moving between Thailand and Cambodia.

The Thai military gave him a safe house in Trat near the Cambodian border, where he is believed to have been living with his minor wife and their child.

His first wife is reported to be in a mental home in Beijing.

Thai Supreme Commander Suchinda Khraprayun met with Pol Pot this year before peace talks in June among the four warring factions in the Thai seaside resort of Phatthaya and reported the Khmer Rouge leader was in perfect health.

Suchinda later said that Pol Pot should be treated fairly as he had officially stepped down as the Khmer Rouge leader.

But diplomats remain convinced that Pol Pot continues to mastermind the Khmer Rouge's long-term goal to regain power in Cambodia.

News that he has crossed back to Khmer Rouge-controlled areas of western Cambodia has led to speculation that he was ordered out by the Thai Government following calls from Phnom Penh last week that Pol Pot should be put on trial.

Prince Sihanouk said recently during a trip to the United States that he supported the setting up of an international tribunual to try the Khmer Rouge's most infamous leaders—Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Ta Mok.

"All this talk of trying Pol Pot could have unnerved the Thais. Getting Pol Pot to go back over the border to Cambodia, at least for a while, has let them off the hook. They can wipe their hands of the problem," one diplomat said Tuesday.

UNAMIC To Visit Resistance Bases 19 Nov

BK1611071791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] The UN Advance Mission in Cambodia, UNAMIC, will travel from Phnom Penh to Battambang and Siem Reap Provinces this Saturday to survey sites for setting up their liaison offices.

UN experts, including Australian telecommunications units, will set up telecommunications networks among the United Nations and the four Cambodian parties in five areas—three in Cambodia and two in Thailand's Aranyaprathet and Surin Districts. UNAMIC has its headquarters in Phnom Penh, three liaison offices attached to each of the three Cambodian resistance sides, and two others in Battambang and Siem Reap Provinces.

UNAMIC will also visit bases of the national army of independent Cambodia [kangtoap cheat kampuchea aekaraeach] and of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia in Oddar Meanchey Province on this coming Tuesday [19 November].

Economic, Bureaucratic Problems Viewed

BK1811091991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Nov 91 p B1

[Text] Phnom Penh—When the euphoria of Prince Norodom Sihanouk's return to Phnom Penh dies down, the Cambodian people will face the sobering reality that the revered leader cannot provide the panacea to their ills that they expect.

In the immediate period ahead, the long-suffering Cambodian people will go through a new phase of uncertainty and confusion as the four principal Cambodian factions, which span the gamut of political views, vie for their suport during what is ostensibly, and emotionally, a time for peace and reconciliation.

The most pressing problem facing the leaders, and the people, will be the functioning of the Supreme National Council (SNC) and its relationship with the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC). It is hoped that all of the 12 members of the council will be in the capital by next week.

The Khmer Rouge leader Son Sen is scheduled to arrive here today from Bangkok. It is not known whether Khieu Samphan is to travel separately, or not at all.

The first meeting of the SNC could be held as early as next week in the new headquarters furbished by the State of Cambodia. In practical terms, it is only when the SNC begins to function that the county's huge bureaucracy will know how it will be able to deal with administrative problems under the new regime and UNAMIC during the interim.

The UN peace accord stipulates key ministries that the SNC will control, along with the UN peacekeeping force, while the Phnom Penh Government will still handle day-to-day law and order. It is unclear at this stage how they will interact with each other.

But one thing is certain, that with Sihanouk's arrival, the administrative power of Phnom Penh has somewhat diminished. The first change that has taken place involves the 10 embassies which have stayed on in the embattled Cambodian capital through all its trials and tribulations: India, the Soviet Union, Laos, Vietnam, Hungary, Germany (formerly East Germany), Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Cuba. These countries were accepted by the Vietnam-installed government.

The respective ambassadors have already taken the practical step of responding to the new situation by deciding to seek accreditation from the SNC headed by Sihanouk. In the process they have automatically switched their recognition from the Phnom Penh Government.

Among the diplomats, there now is only Cambodia and not the State of Cambodia or, for that matter, the SNC to be recognized. Certainly, they all are in Cambodia under the SNC banner, and the name Cambodia (as opposed to the State of Cambodia) points clearly to the future of the country as it is transformed to the point of having an elected government.

One veteran diplomat said virtually all foreign assistance to the country is now non-existent. It will take a while before the SNC gets hold of new pledges and packages.

Assistance is now provided by 60 relief organizations including various UN agencies, which provide at least US$35 million a year for humanitarian works.

Bureaucratic Anxieties

The arrival of Prince Sihanouk and the UN peace troops has also created anxiety within the ranks of the 120,000-strong Cambodian bureaucracy. Their future will now rest partly on organizations and people they do not know.

The Phnom Penh Government, which has attempted to cut this public service behemoth in half, has promised compensation to those who choose voluntary retirement.

At this stage only a few thousand have taken up the offer. Many of them have quit to take advantage of the better job opportunities opening up with the increased foreign presence in Cambodia. Several dozen mid-level officials, including some from the Foreign Ministry, have abandoned their once prestigious positions for more lucrative employment in international aid agencies, foreign news organizations and a myriad business offices.

Meanwhile, those who remain within the civil service ranks have found part-time work or are engaged in their own private business, which is having a drastic effect on their routine work. "There's no one in charge," seems to be the most common impression given to people who have to deal with the bureaucracy in Phnom Penh now.

Another huge bureaucratic problem affecting Phnom Penh is what to do about the armed forces, which total 110,000 men. About 33,000 are expected to remain in uniform after the planned demobilization. The first thing the government did after the signing of the peace accord last month was to ensure that the 77,000 demobilized soldiers' salaries would not be cut.

With the SNC in control, the future of Phnom Penh's key Council of Ministers is also in doubt, and questions remain about whether it can continue to function and make decisions. The policy-making organization is responsible for government affairs.

Fear of Khmer Rouge

No one expects to see the four Cambodian factions demobilize and disarm as agreed in the peace agreement signed in Paris on Oct 23. Seventy per cent of the armed forces of each Cambodian faction are to be demobilized under UN supervision.

With the peace accord, the Khmer Rouge is now able to return to Phnom Penh as part of the SNC and participate in the elections expected in early 1993. There are substantial rumours and reports going around that the Khmer Rouge are hiding troops and weapons to avoid UN detection.

The Khmer Rouge's 30-40,000 guerilla are still in their strongholds along the Thai-Camboldian border and in the Cardamon mountains of western Cambodia. Their arms and weapons caches can enable them to continue fighting for years.

While public and international attention are focusing on the Khmer Rouge's military strength, another aspect is equally disturbing the political future. For years, the Khmer Rouge has dispatched cadres to small villages to carry out campaigns to discredit the Phnom Penh Government, concentrating on allegations of corruption and government inefficiency.

It appears that some peasants have expressed gratitude of the Khmer Rouge reign which saw less graft and corruption. In addition to this tactic, the Khmer Rouge cadres are also using the SNC's presence in Phnom Penh to their advantage by leading the villagers to believe that the interim governing body is the legal government of Cambodia, and not Phnom Penh's local or provincial leaders.

Almost 13 years have elapsed since the Khmer Rouge was ousted from power, but Cambodians' memory of its genocidal policy has not faded. There could well be serious protests here any day against the Khmer Rouge's participation in the SNC.

Some Phnom Penh leaders worry that the inclusion of the Khmer Rouge on the SNC could backfire on them as they have for the past 13 years used the spectre of their return to keep people fighting and to endure hardship. In the next few days, Khmer Rouge leader will again be roaming the streets of the capital they once wrecked.

Domestic Problems.

As far as Phnom Penh is concerned the widening gap between the haves and the have nots is the most disturbing problem to tackle. Inflation, which has fluctuated widely for more than six months, has in the past few days stabilized somewhat after Sihanouk's return.

But the new-found prosperity in the capital, which has launched a bazaar-like economy, is at the expense of the poor people. Many of them cannot afford to buy anything and are being forced to eke out an existence with the little that they have now.

Cha Rieng, governor of the National Bank of Cambodia, said the Cambodian economy should improve as the UN peace forces will spend a lot of money here to keep the peace and monitor the ceasefire. But unfortunately this is likely to benefit only select groups of top officials and businesses.

Although the Phnom Penh Government, which has ruled the country for 13 years, has the edge over its rivals, its popularity will dwindle if it fails to respond to the basic needs of the population.

All that the poor can hope for is that when election time draws near, the political parties, including the ruling Pracheachun Party, cannot ignore them.

Over the next 16 months, Sihanouk and the SNC, together with the Phnom Penh leaders, will have to demonstrate that they are sensitive to the lot of the poor and have the determination to steer a stable course for Cambodia.

Reestablishment of French Influence Viewed

BK1811043991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Nov 91 p 4

[By Nutara Thaithawat: "France Keen on Renewing Its Influence in Cambodia"]

[Text] Phnom Penh—"We have decided to reconstruct Cambodia," French Ambassador Philippe Coste told reporters after presenting his credentials to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, President of the Supreme National Council (SNC) on November 15, one day after the former Cambodian monarch's return home from exile.

Mr Coste said the decision was made due to past links between the two countries and stated bluntly that "our wish was to return to Cambodia and we are ready to reestablish the links."

In fact, France unofficially began to renew its links with Cambodia two years ago through opening an Alliance Francaise to teach the French language, charging students the equivalent of 50 baht a semester. There are currently some 7,500 students.

A French diplomatic source said it was not the aim of France to become a commercial partner of Cambodia during reconstruction, but simply to act as an "adviser."

France is hoping to capitalise on the remnants of its colonial rule in Cambodia where there remains quite a large number of civil servants who can speak French. Most are in their 40s and 50s, and are now in senior positions.

"Cambodia is France's best bet in Indochina. It's a question of prestige in this region in which Vietnam has become too big and Laos remains too small," he said.

France also has to compete in Vietnam with the United States and economic superpower Japan, while its resources are limited.

What the United Nations can do in Cambodia is limited. France started a training programme in all fields one year ago, including a one month training course in France for top civil servants, including vice ministers which it hopes will enable France to maintain a strong influence.

The French diplomatic source provided an explanation: "Considering the urgency of the reconstruction of Cambodia, it will be easier for the civil servants to acquire knowledge and expertise through a language they already know.

The source declined to say the number or names of the top civil servants who have received training in France, but said it covered administration, management, finance, economics, and law.

"Cambodia is not one of our top budget priorities in Asia, as it started from nothing last year. But I am quite sure that France will make a special effort for Cambodia," the source said, but Vietnam remains higher on the list.

France also tried to steal the show in the international peace process by insisting that the main peace talks and the signing of the final peace accord be in Paris. It co-sponsored the first Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC) in 1989 after the withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops.

It was only a co-sponsorship and co-chairmanship with Indonesia because Indonesia was the first coutnry to sponsor a meeting of all four warring factions in the co-called Jakarta meetings.

During the signing of the final peace accords in Paris in October, the word "international" was dropped from PICC on all documents handed to the press. It now only reads the Paris Conference on Cambodia.

France also insisted that the commander of the military component of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) be French and that the French language be the medium of language for UN officials here.

It is not known how many people in the 23-country UN mission to Cambodia can speak French and it is more than likely that France will have to accept the fact that English is more widely spoken among the UN team.

After Prince Sihanouk personally appealed to the director-general of the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to protect and to restore the famed Angkor monuments, France also insisted that its experts be a senior, if not the top positions in the international team to restore the monuments.

A UNESCO source said France pledged to contribute to the restoration if two of its experts are based in Cambodia. The money would be used only through the Ecole Francaise d'Extreme Orient.

Japan, Thailand, and India are also vying for the top positions, insisting that they, too, have the expertise. While the struggle continues, UNESCO has "zero" money for the restoration, according to the UNESCO source.

France made sure its ambassador was the first to present his credentials to the SNC even though protocol called upon the ambassador from the first country which accredited an ambassador to the SNC to present his credentials first. Australia was the first country to accredit an ambassador, followed by India in Phatthaya last August.

An Australian diplomatic source said Australia was not upset over this and that it did not matter when its ambassador presented his credentials because it has always maintained the same stance in its policy toward the Cambodian problem.

"But certain countries think it a serious matter to be first, and to be the dean of the diplomatic corps," the source said.

France's return and its struggle to reinstate itself as a superpower in Cambodia will not be easy.

The same French diplomatic source said France found itself in a similar situation as when it first came to the region a century ago.

"A weak administration in need of back-up from the outside and the lack of an intellectual tradition.

"Like a century ago, the people in power do not think about national interest and this will coincide, again as in the past situation, with the more important question of Cambodia's place between Thailand and Vietnam and its friends, not the public interest.

"I can't help [but] worry for the future of Cambodia," he said.

French troops were the second group of foreign troops under the auspices of the UN to arrive in Cambodia. An initial 111 men, four helicopters and 14 trucks were flown into Ho Chi Minh City and crossed the border into Cambodia on November 13.

France is also spending 25 million baht to renovate the headquarters of the SNC, which was built in 1930 and served as the office of the French governor to Cambodia during its colonial rule.

Ambassador Coste said as a further contribution, France was donating all official materials to the SNC while French Peugeot cars will be used as official cars for all members of the SNC. Mr Coste said a special 605 Peugeot will be given to Prince Sihanouk.

The Ambassador told French reporters that there would be high purchasing power in Phnom Penh with the presence of the UN, and that "French enterprises should move very fast.

"They should not wait because people from neighbouring countries, like Thailand and Taiwan, are better informed and better equipped to come," he said.

A Bangkok-based French diplomat criticised Thai businessmen who cooperated with Japanese businessmen in Cambodia. "Thailand was on the side of Japan during World War Two and the same is happening now," he said.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will arrive in Phnom Penh on November 22 together with 25 representatives of leading French enterprises, mainly involved in electricity, water, and banking.

Whether France makes a successful return to Cambodia remains to be seen. However, according to the French Ambassador, there was a promising start. The Ambassador proudly said he had a 45-minute meeting with Prince Sihanouk after presenting his credentials, and that "the talks were spontaneous and without an interpreter."

Indonesia

Timorese Students Hold Protest in Jakarta

BK1911110791 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 19 Nov 91

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] The Indonesian Government has appointed a Supreme Court judge with a military background to investigate last week's massacre of civilians by troops in the East Timor capital, Dili. He is Judge Jaelani, who obtained his law degrees at military institutions and served on several military units.

Meanwhile, police have arrested a number of young Timorese who took part in a demonstration in Jakarta today in protest over events in East Timor. The group of about 50 students presented petitions to officials in several buildings including the Australian Embassy before they were arrested and taken to Jakarta's central police station. Ian MacIntosh witnessed the demonstration, and Paul Murphy asked him, was it peaceful:

[Begin recording] [MacIntosh] Well, it was until the end. Yes. Basically the demonstrators—we counted about 50—assembled outside the United Nations building on the main thoroughfare here—Jalan Thamran. They were not shouting or chanting, and the police that were accompanying them seemed to be in reasonable form as well. A small group went in to the UN building to present a petition. At that point, my colleague from the AAP [AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS], (Terry Freel) and I walked in to see if we can find out what the petition was about. We began to talk to the leader of this delegation when we were whisked away, and after about 20 minutes, I stress only to check our credentials, and keep us away from the group.

[Murphy] But, were you technically arrested?

[MacIntosh] No, we were detained—I think it would be the correct term. It is a fairly common practice here when one covers demos, but what it in effect meant was that we were not able to see the first stage. What happened then was that the group marched or walked down the Jalan Thamran, stopped outside the Japanese Embassy about 400 or 500 yards down the street, continued their demonstrations, they were waving their banners—these were not mildly-worded banners, they wrote things like "Integration is extermination" "Dialogue with Sha Na Na"—a reference to the leader of Fretilin [East Timor freedom movement] and "The victims were guilty because they had no guns"—very strong stuff, but not a lot of noise, Paul.

[Murphy] And, Ian, when you were detained, was that police who detained you?

[MacIntosh] Police and security staff were inside the UN building complex. We were not out in the street, we were inside the UN building. To the best of my knowledge, nobody from the UN attempted to find out why we were being held. It was about 20 minutes. It was really good-natured, but it has made clear to us that we were not going anywhere.

Meanwhile, the demonstrators had gone further down Jalan Thamran to the Australian Embassy where they presented a petition to senior embassy staff through the locked gate.

[Murphy] Now, did you get a look at the petitions? What were they asking for?

[MacIntosh] The petitions are in Portuguese and are still being translated. But the essence was a call for the withdrawal of Indonesian forces from East Timor, for the United Nations to pressure Indonesia to abide by UN Resolution (?384) of December 1975—that was the resolution calling on Jakarta to respect the integrity of East Timor and to withdraw its forces from the province immediately and unconditionally.

There were other issues as well. One of the demonstrators told me that they are also seeking a guarantee of safety, or rather security, when they left East Timor to work or study in the other parts of Indonesia. But the essence of the protest was about the situation in East Timor, obviously about what has happened last week, and various other grievances that have been built up over 16 years.

[Murphy] Now, did the demonstrators get any commitment from Australian Embassy officials when they handed over those petitions or did they just read them and say perhaps we will get back to you?

[MacIntosh] They read them, accepted them, and said they would be conveyed to Canberra. [end recording]

Suharto Prepares for 25-Day Overseas Tour

BK1511040191 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] President Suharto is scheduled to begin a five-nation tour on 19 November. Speaking in Jakarta yesterday, Minister-State Secretary Murdiono said the president will not only perform state visits to these countries, but also attend the summit meeting of the Group of 15 and the sixth summit meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. Station correspondent Kabul Budiono reports:

[Begin Budiono recording] The overseas tour by President Suharto and his entourage, scheduled to begin on 19 November, will last 25 days. The president will visit Mexico and Venezuela on the American Continent as well as Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Senegal on the African Continent. As Minister-State Secretary Murdiono said yesterday, the president will not only perform state visits, but will also attend two summit meetings, namely that of the Group of 15 in Caracas, Venezuela, and of the ICO in Dakar, Senegal. The state visits to Venezuela and Senegal are scheduled to take place before the convening of the summit meetings. Murdiono noted that the upcoming visits will enable the president to hold talks with some leaders of the Group of 15 and the ICO. [end recording]

Ruling Party Discusses Future Policy Directions

BK1311041891 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Nov 91 p 26

[By Jakarta correspondent Paul Jacob]

[Text] Jakarta—Indonesia's Golkar [Functional Group] party leaders have agreed on a political and economic programme that could lead to fundamental changes in the conduct of Indonesian politics.

The ruling party wants public attention to be focused sharply on national policies and programmes, adherence to the country's Constitution and a strengthening of democratic institutions.

It is worried that Indonesia has been preoccupied for too long with the notion that there must be a single, strong, central figure around which all else revolves.

Party insiders acknowledge that in emphasising "strong democratic institutions rather than an individual figure", Golkar is making a conscious effort to prepare Indonesians for life in a post Suharto era.

It intends to do so as Golkar leaders believe that there is no clear successor to President Suharto who has the same vision and the stature needed for the presidency.

Indonesians today are preoccupied with the issue of political succession, the prospects of Mr Suharto staying in power, who will be the next vice-president and therefore, the heir apparent.

Mr Suharto, who will be 72 when his current five-year term ends in 1993, has said that Indonesia has no Crown Prince waiting in the wings.

The point has been echoed by Indonesian Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno and Home Affairs Minister Rudini—both considered as potential successors.

Senior Golkar officials said that playing up the succession question was playing on the politics of emotion.

The party wants to see a transformation in the political climate in which succession and the presidency are no longer the central political issues, said Dr Alfian of Golkar's research and development department.

The argument is that if the political, social and economic systems and practices are established and working well, Indonesia can remain on an even keel regardless of who is at the helm.

Officials said President Suharto was aware of the need to strengthen existing political system and not by introducing liberal or alien political concepts, they said.

Critics said the limits of Parliament's authority and the authority of the executive were imposed to assure that President Suharto maintained control of the country.

Mr Suharto has repeatedly referred to the Constitution and the Pancasila [national ideology] system, and the process of consultation and consensus.

Golkar leaders said they would conform to this, and the party's programmes would be the election platform.

But before they can be put into effect, Golkar needs the people's mandate, which it hopes to win in the general election next June.

Dr Alfian said: "Golkar wants to make the quality of democracy more mature and to improve on it so that we give more attention to programmes for the country's development.

"The general election next year will be the last before the end of the first 25-year long-term development plan in 1994. We need a breakthrough in the political pattern... one that is rational and which will be able to sustain us through the second 25-year plan."

This was one reason why Golkar's three-day leadership meeting—involving more than 400 officials from party headquarters and branches—did not endorse any candidate for the 1993 presidential pool.

It took this decision despite the fact that the Muslim-based United Development Party announced that it would nominate Mr Suharto for a record sixth term as president.

This makes Mr Suharto's continuation in office all but a certainty.

There is little likelihood that Golkar and the Indonesian Democratic Party, the country's third and smallest political group, would nominate anyone else if the president chooses to stay on.

But Golkar wants to avoid an early public endorsement of a presidential candidate.

"It is true we have decided on our candidates. But now is not the time to announce them. Next year's election is to elect candidates for the Parliament. The presidency is the year after," said Golkar deputy secretary-general Usman Hasan.

"We will be consistent to constitutional practice and nominate the candidate at the appropriate time."

Golkar's plan to get Indonesians to think along the lines of working with institutions rather than personalities will not be easy.

It will have to contend with a population that is still largely rural-based, and one that is accustomed to having an authority figure to look up to.

But it hopes to succeed by starting the process now rather than to wait until 1998, the end of the next presidential term.

"If the system has become stronger by that time, then we will be able to face any change without running into problems ... the system will be our guarantee," said Dr Alfian.

"If there is a strong system and a strong leader, so much the better."

Golkar wields considerable leverage not only because it is the largest and most influential political group, but because as the country's ruling party, it can effectively translate party programmes into government policy.

Its 12-point political statement issued at the end of its leadership meeting did not touch on the succession issue.

But it said that the party would enhance the functions and roles of state institutions, and would do so with the support of other socio-political forces, civil organisations and civic action groups.

The party tried to offer more than slogans by identifying itself more closely with the aspirations of the people.

It called for better wages and working conditions, moves to close the income gap between rich and poor and rejected business monopolies because these do not benefit the common people.

According to Golkar deputy secretary-general Usman, it is in the interest of businesses to eliminate poverty, create jobs and help increase Indonesians' earning power.

It wants the big business conglomerates to go into partnerships with small firms.

Golkar officials warned that if the country's poor were not helped by government and the big businesses, the country as a whole would suffer in the long run.

"This is why you saw President Suharto calling people to his Tapos ranch," said Mr Usman, referring to his meetings with business tycoons last year in which he called for wealth-sharing schemes through the sale of shares to co-operatives.

In Golkar's programme, the civil service is also a target area for improvement.

It plans to relook at the wages, training and service conditions in the public sector.

The government is also mulling over proposals to decentralise the bureaucracy and give the provinces more autonomy.

The Golkar proposals will have to be carried out without undermining the political and social fabric under Mr Suharto's New Order government.

The President has often pointed out that Indonesia's experiments with new and liberal practices in its early years brought little development and much chaos.

As one Indonesian journalist said of Golkar's plans: "Any system or transition from what we have today will necessarily have to be well thought through and handled carefully. You must remember that our culture is largely paternalistic and at times people still want to feel that someone is embracing them."

Philippines

Executive Secretary Gives Press Briefing

HK1211142091 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0655 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Press briefing by Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon and Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III at Malacanang—live in English; broadcast in progress; italicized passages in Tagalog]

[Excerpts] [Anchorman Tanny Rodriguez] *Here is the press briefing by Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon intended to clarify some issues in the country. Here is the executive secretary.*

[Drilon in progress] ...and the successful prosecution of those responsible for these acts can be successfully processed. A closer coordination has been going on between the Department of Justice, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and police agencies for the apprehension of these illegal loggers.

The president today has released the sum of 34 million [currency not specified] to the various government agencies and local government units upon the recommendation of the National Disaster Coordinating Council to support the relief, rescue, and evacuation operations relative to the damage and deaths caused by Typhoon Thelma.

The DSWD [Department of Social Welfare and Development] got 20 million; the Department of Health 1 million; the province of Leyte 2 million; the city of Ormoc 5 million; the province of Negros Occidental 2 million; Bago City 500,000; La Carlota City 500,000; to the Philippine Air Force, for their fuel needs, 2 million; and the Visayas Command, for relief assistance and operations, 1 million. For a total 34 million pesos.

The president today also approved the increase in the ceiling of credit facilities of the National Food Authority [NFA] by 750 million in addition to the previously approved 5 billion in order to augment the purchasing activities of the National Food Authority. This increase in the ceiling of the credit facilities of the NFA will enable the National Food Authority to increase the purchase price of the palay [unhusked rice] from the farmers.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Drilon] Well, our objective is, of course, to let it reach six pesos which is the support price.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Drilon] Right now, because of the bumper harvest, the prices in the farm gates have gone down to about P [Philippine pesos] 3.25 to P3.50 per kilo of palay. This has caused difficulties to our farmers, considering that this is not enough even to pay some of their loans to the Land Bank and may discourage them to plant for next year. We have a bumper harvest this year. Our palay harvest has gone up about 10 percent on a yearly basis and our corn produce has gone up by 15 percent compared to last year.

This bumper harvest has caused the prices of palay and corn to drop to the prejudice of our farmers. We have therefore taken a number of measures, among which was to increase the credit limit available to the NFA from 5 billion to 6.250 billion or an increase of 1.25 billion. The 750 [million] that I have just mentioned is part of that 1.25 billion pesos.

We are also. . .[changes thought] as you will recall, we have also issued an executive order which would require government agencies which would have rice requirements to purchase rice from the NFA. Particularly for example, the government hospitals, the Bureau of Prisons are now required to purchase the rice requirements from the NFA.

We have also discussed this problem with some private corporations who would be giving rice to their employees as part of their benefits. We have requested them to see if they can make their purchases from the NFA in order so that we can relieve the congestion in our NFA warehouses, in order that the [changes thought] at the prevailing market price.

So these are [as heard] well-milled, good quality rice. So that instead of buying from the traders or the producers, we have sought the assistance of some private companies, who would be providing rice as a benefit of the employees, to purchase rice from the NFA. All these measures are being undertaken in order to help our farmers increase the prices.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Drilon] These will be borrowed from six banks listed here.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Drilon] Government and private. This is a guarantee that they would need from the government in order that they can lend the money. This will be repaid out of the sales of the stocks of NFA right now, which from my report amounts about 6 billion in stocks right now in the bodegas [warehouses] of the...

[Unidentified reporter interrupts] [question indistinct]

[Drilon] I am sorry! Six billion pesos worth of palay are in the warehouses. Therefore, we are trying to dispose of these so we can liquify NFA so that they can make purchases on the new harvests. Okay?

Today, we have also directed the Public Estates Authority, through its chairman Eduardo C. Zialcita, to set aside the previous recommendation awarding the Alabang Stock Farm to one of the bidders for the development of this particular government property. It will be recalled that questions were raised on the bidding and award of a 2,000-hectare government property sought to be developed in Alabang, what is commonly known as the Alabang Stock Farm. As a result of this public outcry, the president issued Memorandum Circular 385 last August 19, 1991, creating a multisectoral committee composed of the chairman of the Philippine National Bank, a member from the Metropolitan Manila Authority, a member from the Muntinlupa Development Foundation, the vice chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, and the dean of the School of Urban and Regional Planning of the University of the Philippines.

This committee came out with a recommendation which recommended to the president that a rebidding be conducted on the development of this property by the three pre-qualified bidders. The president approved this recommendation and today, we have issued a memorandum to the Public Estates Authority which set aside all the previous proceedings and ordering the Public Estates Authority the following:

Number one: Reopening the pre-qualification phase. Second: Amending the terms of reference. Third: Reviewing the process wherein the financial aspects of the bids where being reviewed, were conducted—more specifically, what they called the two-envelope system. Fourth: To make known for the sake of tranparency the evaluation criteria and the scoring system. Fifth: To reconstitute the evaluation committee by putting in more members in order that the interest of government can be fully protected.

These recommendations were contained in a memorandum addressed to the president by the committee on 3 October 1991. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] *Sir, with regards to illegal logging...*

[Drilon, interrupting] Yes?

[Unidentified reporter] Sir, Secretary Factoran [Natural Resources Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr] yesterday said that there was no proof that illegal logging [words indistinct].

[Drilon] There was what?

[Reporters in unison] That illegal logging was not part of [words indistinct].

[Gomez] That was not the statement that he made. The statement that Jun [Factoran] said is that: It is not exclusively illegal logging that is the culprit. He was trying to trace all the way back to the early 1950s when many of the grasslands had been cleared for agricultural productivity.

He is saying that that is also part of the problem. But the principle really is illegal logging, but not exclusively. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] You have declared a total war against illegal logging. Will you be the one in charge of prosecution? [passage indistinct]

[Drilon] Jim, if a permit has been issued, that is not an illegal logging.

Now, this campaign against illegal logging has been going on. In fact, in the Task Force on Law Enforcement, there is a subcommittee on illegal logging wherein we monitor and coordinate the efforts of the prosecution of police agencies in seeing to it that those who are charged of illegal logging can be successfully prosecuted. Because we know that we are facing powerful people here with resources.

And in fact, if you recall, one of the cases that the Task Force on Law Enforcement was monitoring, particularly on illegal logging, was the case against Councilor Rufino Bunsoy of the city of Manila. And so this shows to you that we have been monitoring this problem And we will continue to do so. And the release of 1 million as intelligence funds is designed to further strengthen this campaign against illegal logging.

[Unidentified reporter] Is the release of the intelligence fund [words indistinct].

[Drilon] Well, we need it. The DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] would need this for its efforts at illegal logging.

[Unidentified reporter] Would this be a part of vigorous campaign against illegal loggers?

[Drilon] Yes, it will be more vigorously pursued.

[Unidentified reporter] Will you also go after those believed to be protecting illegal loggers?

[Drilon] Nobody will be protected here. All those who are found guilty, where evidence... [changes thought] there is evidence against them, will be prosecuted.

[Unidentified reporter] Have you given the DENR a deadline on the investigation regarding Leyte?

[Drilon] No, but we are willing to discuss that with the DENR and the police agencies and the prosecution arm of this government.

[Unidentified reporter] Will you also be looking at the, for instance, if the DENR itself...[changes thought] I understand a number of super logging concessions have been [words indistinct] way, way after...

[Drilon, interrupting] We have confidence in the ability of Secretary Factoran to look into this matter and institute reforms.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Drilon] I have not been informed. Maybe he has submitted directly to the president. I have not been informed of that.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you worried about the reported tidal wave in Samar?

[Drilon] I have none, Chit. I do not know. [Gomez laughs] I have no...I have no report on that, Chit. I have no report.

[Gomez] There are no reports of tidal waves. *You guys are incredible.* [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] Nur Misuari reportedly intervened on behalf of Mindanao, at least for the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front], and is asking [words indistinct]. May we have a reaction?

[Drilon] We will be consulting the DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] and the DND [Department of National Defense] on this matter. [passage omitted]

[Gomez] We will have to verify that report in the first place. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] Sir, there are two major delegations currently here in the Philippines. One is the IMF, and the other is the head of the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization]. Is the government confident that they can meet their requirements?

[Drilon] I cannot speak on the IMF because that is better answered by the Secretary of Finance. I have met today with the deputy secretary general of the OIC, His Excellency Ibrahim Bakr. I hope I got it correctly. The second ...[changes thought] It is spelled B-A-K-R, B-A-K-R.

[Unidentified reporters in unison] Bakr.

[Drilon] Bakr. Ahh, yes. His Excellency Ibrahim Bakr, the deputy secretary of the Organization of Islamic Conference. We had a meeting with him, attended by Governor Candao of the autonomous region of Muslim Mindanao and our ambassador, Abraham Rasul, together with the delegation of the OIC. And we explained to them the moves that were taken by this government, in so far as the development of the South, particularly our Muslim brothers, would be concerned.

We briefed him on the devolution that we have done. And the transfer of authority from about 17 departments—line departments—to the autonomous region of Musilim Mindanao. The budgets allocated and the amounts we have released to these people—to the autonomous region of Muslim Mindanao.

His Excellency Ibrahim Bakr will see the president tomorrow at 0930 [0130 GMT]. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Drilon] Well, in my conversation with His Excellency Ibrahim Bakr, he expressed surprise that this information has never before reached the Organization of Islamic Conference.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Drilon] That's what he told me. And that's why he asked me to formally inform him, in writing, of this thing, of this government action that we have taken.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the reply?

[Drilon] He was satisfied with our conversation, with our report. Yes?

[Unidentified reporter] What would you tell Rasul...

[Drilon, interrupting] What did I tell Rasul on what? No. No, no, no. Please, please do not make that conclusion because indeed Ambassador Rasul has been doing his job. It may be possible that on a personal basis, this is the first time that His Excellency Ibrahim Bakr came to know of this report. So please do not make any attribution of failure to do...[changes thought] to perform his job on Ambassador Rasul. He has been doing a fine job in Saudi Arabia.

[Unidentified reporter] Sir, Mr. Bakr is from what country?

[Drilon] From Saudi Arabia. He is the deputy secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference. He is from Saudi Arabia, but he is now with the OIC. Not with the Saudi government. Yes?

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Drilon] I cannot answer that question directly, but I assume that this is part of their visitation agenda.

[Unidentified reporter] Sir, will they monitor the implementation of the Tripoli Agreement?

[Drilon] No. There was no such mention. There is a forthcoming OIC conference in Tripoli. When is that? Sometime...[changes thought] Is it Tripoli or is it Istanbul?

[Gomez] In Senegal.

[Drilon] Where?

[Gomez] In Dakar, Senegal.

[Drilon] In Dakar, Senegal. There is a forthcoming OIC conference in Dakar.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you foresee if Nur Misuari apply for membership to the OIC?

[Drilon] I don't think that Mr. Misuari has applied for membership in the OIC. And I don't think that is forthcoming. [passage omitted]

Aquino Pessimistic on Surrender of Military Rebels

HK1911013991 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] President Corazon Aquino and General Lisandro Abadia have lost hope that Colonel Gregorio Gringo Honasan and other RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] leaders will surrender before the 23 November 1991 deadline set by the government.

President Aquino and General Abadia said that they have not yet received any positive response about peace negotiations being conducted for the possible surrender of Honasan, former Commodore Domingo Calajate, former Navy Capt. Felix Turingan, and their other colleagues. In light of this, President Aquino has ordered the suspension of all dialogue with Honasan after the 23 November deadline.

At the same time, Abadia appointed former Lieutenant Colonel Red Kapunan to persuade Honasan to return to the government fold. According to General Abadia, Capunan's talk with Honasan is the last card. If that fails, the military will resume their offensive against the rebels.

Most Senators Oppose Senate President's Ouster

HK1911034091 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] A majority of senators object to the ouster move against Senate President Jovito Salonga. Of 13 senators interviewed, only Senator John Osmena favored Salonga's ouster. As for the majority of senators, they said it is not yet time to oust Salonga because it will cause serious problems and aggravate the country's present crises.

On Senator Orlando Mercado's part, he said that it is not easy to carry out a reorganization because the country is still facing many problems that need all support from government officials.

In a related story, the move to oust Salonga as Senate president may warm up in coming days. According to Senator Heherson Alvarez, a meeting on this matter has been held among the senators. He is hoping that there will be more meetings on this issue. Some senators question Salonga's position as Senate president because he will also serve as presiding officer in the presidential electoral count; and Salonga is one of the presidential candidates. Senator Alvarez added that in his opinion, Salonga should be allowed to finish his term.

Abadia Predicts 'Orderly and Peaceful' Elections

HK1811121391 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said the 1992 polls will be orderly and peaceful despite reports that the communist rebels will be supporting some candidates belonging to progressive parties in the May election. According to Abadia, the word progressive is associated with leftist activists or politicians who oppose the retention of the U.S. military bases and espouse radical change.

Senate President Delivers Campaign Speech

HK1811002591 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA SUNDAY MORNING POST in English 17 Nov 91 p 7

[By Michael Bociurkiw]

[Text] Philippine Senate president Mr. Jovito Salonga pledged yesterday to make the fight against poverty his "Number One" priority if he were elected president of the country.

In a speech before the Foreign Correspondents' Club that was long on rhetoric and short on details, Mr. Salonga said mass poverty was the Philippines' most crucial problem as 60 percent of the population lived below the poverty line.

He said it was a disgrace that skilled Filipinos were forced to go abroad to places like Hong Kong and the United States to earn decent wages.

"Poverty in the Philippines is shameful and inexcusable when compared with Hong Kong and Singapore," said Mr Salonga, who hopes to represent the Liberal Party in presidential elections next May.

Quoting World Bank figures, he said more Filipinos lived in poverty now than at any other time in recent history.

"It is inconceivable that 51 percent of our doctors and nurses are in the United States while people in rural villages are suffering," he said.

Mr. Salonga, 72, was the latest presidential aspirant to bring his campaign to Hong Kong, where senators Mr. Juan Ponce Enrile and Mr. Joseph Estrada put in appearances recently.

Because of the territory's large media contingent and huge Filipino community, presidential contenders use Hong Kong to show voters back home that they have international recognition.

Analysts have predicted that next year's elections, in which hundreds of candidates will be running for a host of positions including seats on village councils, will be the bloodiest ever.

In order to have a chance at winning, a presidential candidate would require "a huge political machine" with at least 500,000 people, Mr. Salonga said.

He defended his staunch opposition to the defeated bases agreement between Manila and Washington.

There was no way the agreement could be considered a fair deal, he said, calling it "a one-sided anachronistic treaty".

Mr. Salonga said the Philippines was ready to welcome more foreign investment.

A new foreign investment act passed the senate recently, he said.

However, he conceded that red tape, infrastructure bottlenecks and corruption were still scaring away investment.

Governor Says Troops Threaten Peace Talks

HK1811031391 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 18 Nov 91 p 8

[By Isidoro S. Chammag]

[Text] Bontoc, Mountain Province—Gov. Roy S. Pilando pressed yesterday his demand for the immediate pullout of Army troops deployed in the province.

He said that the continued deployment of the Army troops is jeopardizing the peace negotiations which the civil officials have started with the New People's Army (NPA).

Pilando accused the Army leadership of "insensitivity for not listening to the demand of the civilians" and members of multi-sectoral groups who sought the relief of the Army soldiers.

"We are doing all we can to negotiate for peace with the NPA and then suddenly, more than 1,000 soldiers of the 702nd Army Brigade arrived without considering the efforts of the civil officials," he said.

He added that the arrival of the Army soldiers was "a provocative move."

"Now the NPA rebels are doubting our sincerity in the peace negotiations," he also said.

In a related development, Mayor Johnny Diaz of this capital town and Mayor Ignacio Daoas of Sagada denied having agreed to the deployment of the Army soldiers in Mountain Province.

The two mayors denied a claim of an Army officer that during a conference with local officials, they reportedly agreed and welcomed the coming of the Army soldiers.

Meanwhile, other local government officials have expressed concern about the militarization of Mountain Province.

Vice Mayor Tom Killip and Provincial Board Member Joseph Faculdo said that the Army deployment has instilled fear among the civilians.

Complaints about human rights violations have started to pour in with the soldiers reportedly arbitrarily accosting people whom they suspect of being NPA rebels or supporters.

Killip said that the 20-kilometer road between Besao and Sagada is swarming with fully armed soldiers with battle tanks, armored personnel carriers, and howitzers.

Thailand

Commerce Ministry Asks U.S. 'Good Faith' Show

BK1811005591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Nov 91 p 17

[Text] The Commerce Ministry has told the United States that to maintain favourable trade relations with Thailand, it must "show good faith" by removing Thailand from its list of priority foreign countries under Section 301 of the US Trade Act.

A senior official of the Commerce Ministry, who is a member of the Thai team negotiating with the US on the issue, said at the weekend that in recent years, the US Administration had tried to force Thailand to amend its Patent Act, especially relating to pharmaceutical products.

"Now that an amendment to the Patent Act has passed its first reading by the National Legislative Assembly, the US should be satisfied with the outcome," the official said.

He noted that although there are some issues under the draft amendment that do not meet all US demands, negotiations will continue.

Last week, after the draft amendment passed its first reading and the NLA agreed to set up a 19-member scrutinising committee to further consider it, Deputy Commerce Minister M.R. Pridiyathon Thewakun said the amendment is adequate and effective, so there is no reason why Washington can be upset.

US Trade Representative Carla Hills will decide this month whether to retaliate against Thailand, India and China, which are listed as priority foreign countries under Section 301, or hold further negotiations.

In the lastest round of high-level talks between officials in Seoul last week, Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on told Ms Hills about the progress the Thai Government is making to improve protection for intellectual property rights.

The source said Washington is still not satisfied with some aspects of the draft amendment, but Mr Amaret has asked for further negotiations on these matters.

"The US Administration should understand that it is impossible to do everything it has demanded because the Government must also act in the best interests of the country," he said.

The source noted that in the light of mounting opposition to the issue, the Government must ensure the poor are not adversely affected by the amendment to provide proection for pahrmaceutical products.

"We are ready to negotiate on other issues in the next three months, but first of all, we hope the US will show good faith by removing Thailand from the hit list," he said.

It is likely the US will still demand transitional protection for drugs currently undergoing clinical trials in the US.

Also, Washington wants Thailand to relax its compulsory licensing under the patent amendment, especially the regulation allowing the Government to revoke the licences of patent-holders who do not use their rights or make available their patented products in sufficient quantities or at reasonable prices on the local market.

Impact of Premier's Pending U.S. Visit Viewed

BK1711103791 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 16 Nov 91 p 2

["Stop the World" column by Freeman: "Prime Minister's Trip to America"]

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun will visit the United States in early December. Reporters who are concerned that the Thai premier may not get a proper welcome from the U.S. Government and may even encounter protests by Americans have asked the premier whether his visit is a private one. The premier answered it is not and added that his government has been in office for eight months and has never had any problem contacting foreign countries.

Some of the reporters are concerned because they note that the United States has forced several countries in East Europe including the Soviet Union to abandon communist dictatorships for democracy. The communist government in Nicaragua was toppled in a free elections recently. The military junta in Haiti, which seized power from the elected government, has come under U.S. pressure to return power to the government it toppled.

Anan Panyarachun was appointed premier by the military junta which took power in a coup on 23 February. Reporters are therefore afraid that he might not be welcomed by the American Government and people. This has happened before. A Thai premier who came to power after a coup d'etat met protests when he visited the country. Anan can check with Bunchana Atthakon, chairman of the advisory board of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] if he wants to know more about this.

However, Anan may be warmly welcomed in the U.S. as he was once Thai ambassador to Washington D.C. He also knows many people in the State Department. He might also get a special welcome from his old American friends as well as Thais who live there. Anan can explain to them that the draft constitution is being deliberated by the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] and that once the constitution is promulgated a general election will be held.

Thais in the U.S. want Thailand to have a democratic government. What they read from newspapers, however, are reports about undemocratic provisions in the draft constitution. Anan could also take the opportunity to explain that to them.

Anan has not detailed what he will be discussing with the American leader. It is believed, however, that their exchanges would cover the repatriation of 350,000 Cambodian refugees, the reconstruction of Cambodia, Thai-U.S. trade, and Southeast Asia.

We sympathize with Premier Anan Panyarachun who had appointed by the military junta. He is running the country under control of the NPKC and takes orders from them. Anan cannot claim that his government is a government of the people. The NLA is not an elected assembly but one that had been appointed by the military junta.

If it is not critical, political analysts feel that the premier should not go to the United States at all. They believe this task should be left to an elected government because they would be able to have discussions with American leaders on a broader scale and under a better conditions.

The U.S. is the lone superpower now. Washington, D.C., is the world's headquarters which the leaders of various countries visit, either by invitation or in search for U.S. aid. The mass media give less attention to those seeking aid. Because of this some resort to hiring newsmen to report on their trip and meetings with U.S. leaders in the newspapers or on television so that they can boast to the people back home that the host had warmly welcomed them.

Thai leaders visiting the United States sometimes get a high-profile welcome by pro-democracy Americans holding placards against them. Though they made the news and television reports, it generated negative images for the country and the people. It would have been better for them to have stayed home instead of wasting government money.

Cambodia will hold elections in 1993, just a year after Thailand—if this is in keeping with the pledge of NPKC

Vice Chairman General Suchinda Khraprayun who told political reporters that the Thai elections would be held in 1992.

So Thailand and Cambodia will emerge as new democracies, only one year ahead of each other. In five or 10 years time, we can take a look at the situation in both countries and compare how the people in Thailand and Cambodia have excelled against one another in terms of democratic development.

In Thailand, a majority of the people are educated and are aware of their democratic rights as adopted in several civilized countries. It is therefore difficult to deceive them unless they are willing to allow themselves to be deceived. This is something even a superpower like America cannot change.

Foreign Minister on Khmer Rouge Leaders' Return

BK1811125591 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin talked to reporters at the Oriental Hotel on the night of 17 November about a news report that the Cambodian people would protest against Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan's return on 18 November. He said that this is a matter that has to be settled by the Cambodian people themselves. He hoped that everything would proceed smoothly. Khieu Samphan is returning to Phnom Penh to help achieve peace under the UN plan. The four Cambodian factions are now cooperating well. He believes that it is necessary for all parties concerned to make compromises and not to create conflicts.

Asked to comment on a report that there might be adverse incidents when the Khmer Rouge leaders return home, the foreign minister said that it was just news. He said he believed that nothing would happen. He also trusted Prince Sihanouk's leadership. Regarding a news report that former Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, who was involved in the past genocide against Cambodians, will be arrested, Asa said that it was a matter for the Cambodians to decide because Pol Pot is now in Cambodia, not in Thailand. He thought that people should now stop talking about the people who had destroyed the country in the past. Thailand has never supported and never agreed with the behavior of this Khmer Rouge leader.

In addition, the foreign minister also talked about his upcoming visit to Cambodia on 20 November. He said that this delegation will be the first foreign delegation invited by Prince Sihanouk. The two sides will discuss the restoration of peace in Cambodia and will sign a memorandum of understanding on the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from Thailand.

Military Conveys Plan on Cambodian Mine Removal

BK1811031991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Nov 91 p 8

[Text] Thailand's military Supreme Command has quietly conveyed a proposal to Phnom Penh government leader Chea Sim outlining the Kingdom's plan for the removal of up to four million landmines and the first phase of reconstruction in Cambodia.

An informed source told the BANGKOK POST that Thailand was ready to pitch in and help its poor little Cambodian brother.

Landmines, planted indiscriminately in massive volumes, especially along the Thai-Cambodian border and Northwest Cambodia where the resistance forces fought the Phnom Penh government, posed a serious threat to the repatriation of over 300,000 refugees in border camps and some 170,000 internationally-displaced Khmers.

"Thailand is prepared to fund the programme as well as to supply qualified military personnel to survey and clear the mine-fields," the informed source said.

Moreover, Thailand offered to help Cambodia in its first phase of reconstruction by sending a workforce of army engineers to repair war-ravaged road network, particularly the strategic Phnom Penh-Poi Pet route, the source said.

Apart from being told of Thailand's mine-sweeping proposal which was penned by the Supreme Commander, President Chea Sim was also invited to seek help from the Thai Government.

The sources said the secret lobby to solicit Cambodia's approval for Thai assistance in mine-sweeping operations was aimed at trying to convince the Phnom Penh leader that without immediate action the United Nations could face immense difficulties in its operations, and in the repatriation of refugees across the border.

The UN's work would be complicated by the lethal presence of so many landmines which would delay the reconstruction and rehabiliation of Cambodia. The source said civil works such as road repairs could not be carried out safely and effectively unless the minefields are cleared.

Estimates for the number of landmines, mostly supplied by China, the Soviet Union and the United States, varied from one to four million. Besides combatants, Khmer civilians have constantly been killed or maimed by landmines laid by the four factions.

Landmines can also obstruct the performance of the UN Transitional Authority [UNTAC] in Cambodia which was authorised under the peace treaty signed in Paris last month to enforce the ceasefire, as well as disarming and demobilising soliders, the informed source said.

"For instance, if there is a clash between rival Khmer factions, the danger of landmines could prevent UNTAC forces from invesgiating the scene," the source said.

"So the solution is to clear all the minefields, and Thailand has a plan for this purpose," the source said.

The Thai Army which helped train the resistance forces and at times directed strategies for the resistance, "has the expertise required and in some areas, know where the mines are."

Editorial Criticizes 'Return' of Khmer Rouge

BK1711052391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Nov 91 p B3

[Editorial: "Khmer Rouge Leaders Deserve No Peace"]

[Text] "If I see them I will shoot them" was the reaction early last week of a Phnom Penh resident when told that leaders of the despised Khmer Rouge, which had murdered most of his family, were returning to the Cambodian capital.

Today Son Sen, the Khmer Rouge military commander will return with his aides to Phnom Penh and it will be the first time that a leader of the guerrilla group will have stepped foot in the capital since January 1979. At that time, Vietnamese troops were closing in on the city, preparing to end a bloody three-and-a-half year regign of terror that Cambodians still call the "Pol Pot time", in reference to the Khmer Rouge supremo.

Son Sen's return will be greeted with none of the fanfare seen on Thursday to welcome Prince Norodom Sihanouk back home. In fact, his group will probably try to slip into town as quietly as possible, as there are certainly many Phnom Penh residents who agree with the man quoted above—that they would also want to kill all Khmer Rouge leaders. Son Sen himself is thought to be responsible for the deaths of 100,000 Cambodians in 1978 alone.

In the face of such crimes, a killing on the streets of Phnom Penh would just be seen as a rough form of justice. Pol Pot, his second-in-command Ieng Sary, nominal faction leader Khieu Samphan, Son Sen and Khmer Rouge "executioner" Ta Mok must certainly be aware of what peace in Cambodia means for them: the rest of their lives spent trying to avoid those who would make them accountable for their crimes. There would be two acceptable means to do this: an international trial for crimes against humanity, or an open trial in Cambodia. Neither is likely any time soon.

Pol Pot, for one, is unlikely to ever return to Phnom Penh to join his cohorts. Even his elder brother last week called for him to be put on trial, saying he had "a heart like a knife". Meanwhile, Sin Seng, the deputy prime minister of the Phnom Penh government, said it would be very difficult to provide protection to the Khmer Rouge officials even though Son Sen and Khieu Samphan, who will arrive at some later date, are coming to the capital as representatives of the Cambodian Supreme National Council.

This brings up a disturbing question: If the top Khmer Rouge leadership is not planning to return to the capital under the auspices of peace, how are they planning to return? Indications are that the guerrilla group has stored arms and ammunition in remote locations in western Cambodia to try to avoid detection by forces of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which are scheduled to be sent into the country over the next six months.

The fear on the government side is that after the peace settlement is implemented, the guerrilla group will go straight back to waging war. "The Khmer Rouge have hidden soldiers, weapons and people in mountainous jungles. I don't believe the UN will have access to their jungle hideouts," said one Phnom Penh field commander recently.

UNTAC will have to do everything it can to prevent such an occurrence. The UN mandate in Cambodia allows for monitoring and disarming 70 per cent of the troops of the warring factions with 30 per cent being billeted under some control. With this then, there should be no legal obstacles to UNTAC breaking the backbone of the hidden Khmer Rouge forces—if they can find them. The key will be to gain the trust of villagers and use the intelligence that Phnom Penh forces have gathered.

It is also imperative that UNTAC deploy itself well so that the upcoming elections are free and fair throughout Cambodia. It is possible that the Khmer Rouge is planning to return to power by gaining a foothold in the next government, but that is only possible if they can maintain control over territory and therefore the elections in those areas.

It is hard to imagine that many Cambodians would vote for the Khmer Rouge of their own free will; even the followers of the group in camps along the Thai border are turning against the guerrillas after Khmer Rouge-controlled camp commanders tried to push them back into areas of Cambodia laced with landmines.

As for the rest of the Cambodian people, though they are willing to forgive Prince Sihanouk for his foibles, they are unlikely to ever forgive or forget the Khmer Rouge because too many people lost relatives during "Pol Pot time". And among Cambodia's minority groups, the guerrillas are unreservedly hated.

But no matter how well UNTAC does its job, it is likely that the Khmer Rouge will still have some arms, ammunition and men left over after the peace settlement is implemented, elections have been held and the UN peacekeeping forces have gone home. At this point, Thailand will be the key to preventing a return to civil war in Cambodia. Without sanctuaries across the border, the guerillas will not be able to put up a fight. There would probably be no international opposition to Thailand pushing them out at that point, as even China would be unlikely to continue to support such a group.

Only after the situation inside the country has stabilized, after the threat of armed conflict is over and Cambodia has enjoyed a few years of peace, could there be attempts to try to root out the last of the Khmer Rouge leaders and bring them to justice. Even then, an international court would probably be preferable to trial in Phnom Penh, as the former would at least guarantee some even-handedness.

In either case, the top Khmer Rouge cadres would only be facing what they should have faced years ago. Even old age should not be taken into account; after all, Adolf Hitler would still face trial if he were alive today. None of the Nazi leaders would have been allowed back to Berlin in the manner of Son Sen's return to Phnom Penh. There is no need to mince words or look for mitigating factors: peace for Cambodia should not mean any peace for the leaders of the Khmer Rouge.

Burma Stops Border Trading at Mae Sot

BK1511142591 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] The Burmese authorities in Myawadi have indefinitely prohibited the import of products from Thailand, and they have set up a new committee for the supervision of cross-border trading which forces capital to be used in trading across the border to be channeled through the state bank. Trading across the border between Myawadi and Thailand's Mae Sot District stopped this morning. Burmese traders were informed yesterday morning of the new regulations which became effective this morning. Many Burmese traders crossed into Mae Sot all day long yesterday to buy goods for hoarding because they believe the import ban will last a long time, which would drive up the price of Thai products in Burma.

Burmese traders in Myawadi said the reason for the ban on imports from Thailand was because the Burmese authorities wanted to change the border trading system and to facilitate their checking of goods. They said the Burmese authorities wanted to solve the trade deficit with Thailand and the low exchange rate of the Burmese currency.

Although trading completely stopped this morning, people from both sides of the border continued their normal nontrading contacts.

Peru Signs Investment Protection Agreement

BK1711072491 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Thailand and the Republic of Peru have signed the agreement on promotion and protection of investment to further broaden the framework for the development of economic relations between the two countries. The agreement was signed in Bangkok on Friday by Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun on behalf of the Thai foreign minister and Peruvian Minister of Industry, Commerce, Tourism, and Investment Victor Joy Way Rojas. A press release by the Department of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the accord took effect from the date of the signing ceremony. Under the agreement, both sides will promote and facilitate investment by the peoples and companies of contracted parties in their respective countries with a fair treatment. They are required to pay compensation in case of expropriation, war, and uprising causing lose to properties. Both nations will allow the transfer of money freely and settle disputes between them through arbitribion.

According to the department, Thailand and Peru stand a good chance of undertaking a joint venture in fishery and related industries, agriculutre, poultry raising, animal feed production, and the textile industry. The trade volume between the two countries totalled 18.35 million U.S. dollars last year. The trade balance has been in Thailand's favor.

Suchinda Reaffirms Not Accepting Premier's Post

BK1811153291 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] At a news conference at the Army Conference Hall at 1130 today, General Suchinda Khraprayun, supreme commander and Army commander, affirmed that he and Air Force Commander Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin will not accept the prime minister's post after the election.

[Begin recording] [Suchinda] I want to say here to remove all doubt that the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] will not try to retain its power through use of the constitution. NPKC members will not retain power this way. I reiterate this here; I said this long ago about the post of premier. I repeat this stand, that is, for the sake of a clean constitution that has no connection with the NPKC, the NPKC will not become involved in formation of the government after the promulgation of the election law. I issue this confirmation here, and the NPKC members are gathering here today. Regarding the repeated comments that Gen. Suchinda or Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Kaset will become prime minister, I confirm here that both Gen. Suchinda and ACM Kaset will not accept the post of prime minister after the Constitution has been completed and after the election. This should enable political parties to feel comfortable. My philosophy is that I will not enter politics and will run as parliament candidate. This is my political philosophy.

[Unidentified reporter] You said earlier that you will not accept the post of prime minister. Can you confirm once again whether it means that you will not accept the post in any circumstance, or is it conditional on the situation, as you had said before?

[Suchinda] I have no conditions whatsoever, now that I have made the statement. In fact, I made statements earlier on the issue of my not accepting the prime minister post. But subsequently there were suggestions that I not make such a statement because it would cause political unfairness. I felt sympathy for politicians and stopped making such a statement. But since I said it today, I already said clearly that for the sake of clear [previous word in English] and purity of the Constitution, the National Peace-keeping Council will not become involved in the next government. [end recording]

Gen. Suchinda said everyone has the right to express his view of the constitution draft. He gave assurances that the draft will not be influenced by the NPKC.

[Begin recording] [Suchinda] Regarding the constitution, the process involved is: Work by the constitution drafting committee, which was completed. Next there is the constitution scrutiny committee, which submitted its work on 15 November. Therefore, as far as the constitution is concerned, there are officials who are entrusted with relevant duties. The next step concerning how the constitution will turn out is the duty of the National Legislative Assembly [NLA]. I am merely a member of the NLA. Therefore, I cannot speak on behalf of the NLA. This is because I feel that every NLA member has his own ideas. He will have to listen to how the ideas of the media and the people concerning what the constitution should be like. Each member will have to make his own judgment. At present the constitution draft has not reached its final form. This is evident in the fact that the form which was presented by the drafting committee changed when it was passed by the scrutiny committee. Therefore, everything is subject to changes. The constitution issue is now the duty of the NLA. I feel that everyone has the right to voice his opinion about the constitution and that it is impossible for everyone to be pleased with the constitution. Even among politicians, some may be happy with this portion and unhappy with the other portion of the constitution. It is impossible to please everyone. But I feel that the NLA has its own views and will have to listen to what the majority of the people want in the constitution. Therefore, there should be no problem. We must merely be patient about the emergence of the constitution draft. I cannot dictate how the constitution might take shape because I am not involved in drafting, which is the duty of the drafting committee, the scrutiny committee, and the NLA. This is all I can say about the constitution. I say clearly that we have no involvement and that the NPKC will not retain its power. This is clear enough as far as drafting the constitution is concerned. Once the NLA passes the constitution, it will be a legitimate constitution. It must be accepted; every Thai citizen must accept it.

[Unidentified reporter] What will the NPKC do if the constitution does not pass the NLA?

[Suchinda] The provisional constitution states clearly what is to be done in such a scenario. [end recording]

Gen. Suchinda also said politicians and political parties should get ready for the election which should be held in March.

[Begin Suchinda recording] At this time we feel that regardless of whatever changes occurred in the constitution it should be finalized in early December. From then it will take about another month to finalize the election law. The Interior Ministry has coordinated events to the effect that once the election law is promulgated an election should be held as soon as possible. The ministry assures that an election can be held in 30-45 days after promulgation of the election law. Therefore, the election should be some time in early March. I convey this information to the political parties so that they can begin their preparations. After the election and formation of government, the NPKC will cease its existence automatically. The armed forces commanders will return to their sole duties in their respective branches. [end recording]

Party Leaders Dismiss Suchinda Vow, Plan Rally

BK1911021991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Nov 91 p A1, A2

[Excerpts] Top leaders of the Democrat, Palang Tham and New Aspiration parties will spearhead a major rally campaign against the controversial draft constitution at Sanam Luang this evening despite Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's pledge that neither he nor Air Force Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshall] Kaset Rotchananin would accept post-election premiership.

The top party leaders yesterday shrugged off Suchinda's vow on the eve of the National Assembly debate on the draft constitution in the second reading today.

Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai said the crucial question is how democratic the constitution should be and not who would or would not contest the premiership.

New Aspiration Party secretary general Prasong Sunsiri was more direct in his response to Suchinda's pledge. "Who invites him to become prime minister?" he asked.

Palang Than leader Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang, meanwhile, reaffirmed his opposition to key controversial points in the draft and his party's participation in the planned rally at Sanam Luang tonight.

Suchinda's surprise announcement at a press conference is seen as an effort to ease the growing opposition to the draft constitution, particularly its provisional clauses allowing for appointment of senators in equal number to and with the same power vis-a-vis MPs, and for permanent officials to take up political posts.

All the military top brass attended the press conference except National Peace-keeping Council (NPKC) chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, who is reportedly in Britain to accompany Her Majesty the Queen.

But Chuan said Suchinda's vow not to become prime minister did not mean that the constitution would become democratic.

"Don't be misled or deviate from the crux of the issue," he said. The Democrat leader said that the NPKC might seek to prop up Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun following the election and let the premier take the reins for a year or six months.

After the stop-gap period, an NPKC leader might replace Anan, Chuan said. Anan has repeatedly denied he wanted to be prime minister for a second term.

Chuan said Suchinda or any military leader has the right to contest the premiership but he must resign and play by the democratic rules.

"He may or may not run in the election but he must get enough support from the House to become prime minister," he said.

The Democrat leader also took Anan government to task for disowning responsibility over the draft constitution.

"Who will then be held responsible in this country if the constitution turns out to be dictatorial?" he said.

Chuan also hit out at Osot Kosin's scrutinizing committee and the National Assembly members whom he said would seek to be appointed senators.

"Most of them want to become senators. They do not know how exhausting it is for a politician to win an election, hundreds of times tougher than fawning upon a handful of people," he said.

In a separate interview, Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong lashed out at Suchinda for his statement that there were a variety of democratic models.

"He does not know democracy. It's not in his heart," Prasong said.

Prasong said he did not see any substance in Suchinda's statements yesterday.

"As far as I can see, what he said boils down to excuses and attempts to pass the buck to others (the National Assembly scrutinizing committee)," Prasong said. He said Suchinda was not in a position to turn down an offer to become prime minister. "Let me ask only one question, who invites him to take up the post?" he said. [passage omitted]

At the news conference at the Army Convention Hall, Suchinda, who is also NPKC deputy chairman, said many controversial points in the draft could still be amended during the second reading which starts today.

"The National Assembly will take into account public opinion in reviewing the draft which is not final as yet," he said.

If nothing went wrong the new constitution should be ready for promulgation early next month, the election law should be announced one month afterwards, and the election day could be set for early March, or some 45 days later, he said.

Suchinda's news conference was also attended by Kaset, Navy Commander in Chief Adm [Admiral] Wichet Karunyawanit and other high-ranking military officers in a rare show of unity.

He said his vow that neither he nor Kaset would accept the premiership after the polls was aimed at clearing doubts that the NPKC was behind the drafting and revising of the draft constitution to pave the way for its leaders to retain political power.

"I have said it from the very beginning and many times, and let me make it clear here that the NPKC wants a pure constitution which would have nothing to do with us. In front of the NPKC members present here, let me make it clear that none of us would participate in the establishment of the new government. Concerning talk that Gen Suchinda or ACM Kaset would seek to become the next prime minister, let me say here that neither he nor I will take over as prime minister after the polls," he said.

Asked whether his vow would be conditional on the circumstances after the polls, Suchinda said: "I have no conditions. My stand is that I won't run in an election and I won't play in politics."

He refused to comment on the draft, saying he would air his views only during the debate in the National Assembly to show respect for the other National Assembly members. Suchinda is a member of the appointed legislature.

However, he said the controversial clauses in the draft could still be amended, particularly the clause allowing the NPKC chairman to appoint as [item ends incomplete as published]

Anan Joins in Criticizing Draft Constitution

BK1711022891 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Nov 91 p A1

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun last night joined the growing opposition to the draft constitution when he objected to provisional clauses under which senators would be equal in number and power to elected MPs, and permanent officials could hold political posts.

Anan also registered his objection to a permanent clause which would make the Senate speaker the presdient of Parliament.

The House speaker should assume the top parliamentary post which carries the power to select the prime minister and present the nomination to His Majesty the King for his royal appointment, he said at the wedding ceremony of Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan's son, Natthinan Wongwan, at the Hyatt Erawan Hotel.

His frank comments on the escalating controversy came as a surprise, given his previous instruction for all Cabinet members to avoid discussing the issue in public.

However, Anan urged critics to be sympathetic with the military which seized power from the Chathcai government and promised and election soon.

"We should understand them because they focus only on the need for political stability and continuity following the election. However, (democratic) principles should be upheld," he said.

Anan said he was not worried about the outcry by politicians, academics and student groups against the draft constitution.

He described the reaction as part of the democratic way of life.

"Each has his duty to do. The charter drafting committee, the scrutinizing committee and the National Assembly have their duties to carry out. Outsiders, meanwhile, can air their sincere views without any hidden motives to stir things up," he said.

He added: "We should all get our act together, and whatever we would do must be based on sincerity and be conducived to an orderly settlement of the conflict."

Anan said that the draft constitution could still be revised in the second reading in the National Assembly this week.

The premier also dug his heels in regarding hsi decision against allowing a live broadcast of the charter debate which will begin on Tuesday.

He said the charter scrutinizing committee had good reasons backing its request against the live broadcast.

"I have made up my mind, I think that it is sufficient for the public to learn of the debate through the representatives of the mass media who will have the freedom to cover the event," he said.

Meanwhile, politicians yesterday continued their stormy attack on the controversial draft which they said seeks to retain the predominant role of the military in national politics.

Speaking at a panel discussion on "People and Democracy" organized by the Chiang Mai University Alumni Association at a bangkok hotel, politicians said the draft was an insult to the Thai people, and runs coutner to the National Peacekeeping Council's promise to return power to the people.

The speakers, including Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai and Phalang Tham Party secretary general Shinnawut Sunthonsima were particularly critical of the provisional clause of the draft charter empowering senators to participate in the process of selecting the future prime minister.

"That would be tantamount to a failure by the military council to honour its promise to return the power to the people," Chuan said.

The Democrat Party leader said the essence of democracy was the right of the people to self-determination.

"But the draft constitution gives the National Peacekeeping Council the power to appoint senators who would in turn select the future prime minister," he said.

"We should count ourselves lucky that they are being considerate enough not to name the next prime minister in the constitution," Chuan said.

The draft constitution, prepared by a committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphank, was drastically altered by a National Assembly review committee. The draft is regarded by many as one designed to allow the military to cling to the power it seized from the democratically-elected government in February.

The proposal constitution allows the military council to pick 360 senators who would basically share the same power as 360 elected members of the House of Representatives in Parliament.

Col Shinnawut of the Phalang Tham Party said it was evident that the draft constitution sought to perpetuate the military's rule and called on people from all walks of life to join in the campaign to seek genuine democracy.

"This is a slap in the face of the Thai people," Shinnawut said. "The Phalang Tham Party insists that the future prime minister must be an elected member of Parliament—not a sneaky general who is lurking in the wings."

Meanwhile, former prime minister Mr Khukrit Pramot yesterday gave mixed signals on how he viewed the draft constitution and the growing opposition to it.

"I don't want to read the constitution because I know from the start that it would containelements that would not be accepted by the public. And since it is now clear that it is against the people wishes, there is no point to make any criticism," he said.

The senior politician, however, warned that the Feb 23 coup would not be the last for Thailand the added that he expected to see at least 10 more coups by the time he reached 90 years of age.

"What has kept me living is that Thailand still has a parliament and democratic elections. But from now on that could be history and the only way to change the leader would be through a coup," he said.

But he downplayed speculaiton that the growing opposition to the charter draft would snowball into a crisis.

"They (the political parties) are only seeking to irritate the military. I know those people well and I don't believe they would do anything aprt from talking," he said.

Party Leader Lauds Premier's Opposition to Draft

BK1811015191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] New Aspiration Party [NAP] leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday praised Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun for voicing opposition to the draft Constitution, saying the Premier's comments reflect public opinion on the issue.

Gen Chawalit was referring to comments made by Mr Anan on Saturday night which were critical of certain elements in the draft which many people label as undemocratic and dictatorial.

Mr Anan, who usually avoids comment on the issue, said on Saturday that in principle there should be fewer senators than MPs.

The draft prepared by the scrutiny committee proposes 360 senators—equal to the number of MPs—giving them equal, possibly more power than MPs.

The Prime Minister also said he opposes the Senate Speaker being made parliamentary president and that permanent officials should not concurrently hold political posts.

Gen Chawalit said the Prime Minister's opinion is the same as that of the public in general.

"This, however, did not indicate that Mr Anan is in conflict with the military. It is his sincere opinion and he has the right to speak out. I think the military understands him," said the NAP leader.

Asked if he believes the draft will pass its second reading, Gen Chawalit said: "We have to wait and see what they do with it."

Referring to Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's plans for a press conference today, Gen Chawalit said he believed the National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] vice-chairman would tell the public what the NPKC has done since taking power on February 23.

"I think he will say he has nothing to do with the draft Constitution," Gen Chawalit said.

"And I don't think the NPKC would issue an order to prohibit political gatherings to oppose the draft."

Asked to explain why the draft appears undemocratic and disregards the country's interests, Gen Chawalit said those who follow the issue closely know well what is intended by the draft.

"The drafting and scrutinising committees think that the public is backward in politics. They do not realise that the people are more progressive in politics than they expect," Gen Chawalit said.

He agreed with the draft charter being dubbed "tyrannical," adding that he would give it another name later.

"For today, let's just talk about the draft charter which is scaring the people," he added.

Asked to comment on an order for TV Channels 3 and 9 not to present news on opposition to the draft charter, the NAP leader said it is like closing the people's eyes and ears.

"Later on they may issue a law to gag the press. I am very unhappy they (the NPKC) have taken this attitude. It is wrong if they think issuing such a prohibition would stop criticism.

"Please do not close the people's eyes and ears. Give them freedom of expression," said Gen Chawalit, referring to the NPKC.

"If the NPKC comes out tomorrow (today) to prohibit political gatherings, the action would be regarded as another coup. I only hope they would not do that," Gen Chawalit said.

Sammakkhi Tham Party Plans Election Boycott

BK1811011191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] The Sammakkhi Tham Party [STP], which backs Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun for prime minister, has unexpectedly announced it will boycott the election if the draft Constitution is approved unaltered by the National Legislative Assembly.

The STP, which is widely seen as closely associated with certain Air Force leaders, called a press conference yesterday to criticise a provisional clause of the Constitution which allows government officials to hold Cabinet posts concurrently and gives the Senate more power.

"We don't understand why the Constitution Scrutiny Committee wrote it this way. If we are to have 360 senators who do not have to stand for election but have so much power there is no point in us contesting the election," said STP secretary-general Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Thitti Nakhonthap.

The former Air Force officer said the large number of senators and their overwhelming power would make the elected members of the House of Representatives meaningless.

The provision which allows state officials to hold political posts would also be seriously damaging because it would cause disunity among government officials, he said.

The STP is among a few political parties, including Chat Thai, which remained silent over the controversial draft until the sudden change from a party-slate to individual candidates electoral system last week.

The change apparently shook the confidence of STP rank-and-file members who believe the party stood a better chance of winning a sizeable number of seats under a party-slate system.

Former student activist Thirayut Bunmi, who is now a lecturer, said the sudden change in the draft indiciates conflict in the leadership of the National Peace-keeping Council accused by many people of masterminding the draft.

He said the switch in the electoral system shows an attempt by certain leaders in the NPKC to reduce the power of the Air Force.

Sqn Ldr Thitti said he would seek signatures among the STP members in a petition to oppose the draft and ask the National Legislative Assembly to kill the draft before it is approved. The party would boycott the election if the draft is approved by the assembly.

Ruangwit Lik, a prominent member of the STP, said the recent eruption of a major volcano in the Philippines might have blown the dictatorial spirit of President Ferdinand Marcos to Thailand to possess the member of the scrutiny committee.

"This completed draft of the Constitution is perfect for the country 100 years ago but not for Thailand now. I believe the Laotian and the Cambodian constitutions may be more democratic", said Ruangwit.

Daily on 'Crude Reality' of Draft Constitution

BK1611025391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Nov 91 p 1

["Page One Comment": "The Past Is Dead; Let It Stay Buried"]

[Text] Ever since the military overthrow of the oppressive civilian regime of Thanin Kraiwichian more than a decade ago, we have cherished the hope that never again would our country slide back into such a dark age. Never again, we told ourselves, would the Thai people be treated with such disdain and their democratic aspirations taken for granted by the ruling elite. And never again would the reputation of our country be allowed to plunge so low in the eyes of the civilised international community.

There has indeed been cause for optimism—and even a sense of renewed pride—as the country moved on the right track towards genuine democratic rule for the best part of the past decade, although some critics have rightly expressed irritation at the slow pace of democratisation and the exploitation of the system by vested interest groups. Unfortunately, this process came to an abrupt halt on February 23 in an unexpected military coup by the self-proclaimed National Peace-keeping Council.

We were told after the coup that the takeover was justified to get rid of what was described as widespread corruption in the Chatchai administration, vote-buying, parliamentary dictatorship and to do away with the "bullying" of bureaucrats by political appointees. The rationale given, at one point, led to the belief that the country would be ushered into a new political era under which the next election would be free and fair, politicians would be less corrupt and, above all, a fully democratic parliament would emerge. This now appears to have been a cruel delusion.

Crude reality has come in the form of a draft Consitution submitted yesterday to Parliament by the Constitution Scrutiny Committee. Aside from all the standard provisions to ensure the basic rights and freedom of the people which might have been inserted as a matter of simple propriety, the draft contains all the key elements necessary for the revival of an undesirable, bygone era and the potential creation of a despotic regime. The plain truth is that the draft is anything but democratic in the basic sense and dictionary definition of that much-abused word.

The 25-member scrutiny committee was viewed with scepticism from the start amid doubts that it would genuinely take into account public opinion in its review of the draft charter. What finally transpired in the revised draft has exceeded even the more pessimistic expectations. Many of the scrutiny committee members are in fact men of letters and social standing, but their handiwork nevertheless represents a serious letdown to the democratic aspirations of the people and are tantamount to performing a major disservice to the public as far as our future political development is concerned.

The Constitution is regarded as the supreme law of the land which should, among other things, respond to the political aspirations of the people and set the course of the country's development towards greater prosperity. It is not an ordinary piece of legislation which should be toyed with to satisfy the whims of any particular group of people. In its present form, the revised draft is a disgraceful mould that could throw the country a giant step backwards at a time when the rest of the world community, even former socialist regimes, are moving forward with rapid political and economic reforms.

One might question whether it is worth the taxpayers' money to hold an election which could turn out to be meaningless anyway as the electorate will be spoonfed a ready-made prime minister and a subservient, emasculated Parliament, little able to perform its crucial check-and-balance role.

NPKC Strategy on New Constitution Examined

BK1611032991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Nov 91 p 4

[By Soemsuk Kasithipradit]

[Text] Despite confusion over the about face by the Constitution Scrutiny Committee regarding the electoral system, there is growing consensus among political observers that the draft constitution is being intentionally penned to prompt public outcry, forcing the current draft to be dumped and allowing the military to pick up an old charter to be used temporarily.

Opposition to various elements of the draft constitution, especially the introduction of the party-slate system, has been steady over past weeks.

But once further details of the charter—drafted under a cloak of secrecy—were finally unveiled, public outcry intensified. Criticism was levelled at the provisional clause which allows permanent government officials to hold Cabinet posts concurrently and gives senators the right to select the prime minister and join in the no-confidence process.

The surprise comment earlier this week of Army Chief-of-Staff Gen Wirot Saengsnit that if the people dislike the constitution the Army is unlikely to approve it, appears now to have been an early signal of this intention.

"If the majority of the people disagreed with it, how could the army?" he asked.

Political sources close to the National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] have said privately that if strong public opposition emerges over the current draft, it is likely that the National Legislative Assembly—scheduled to consider the draft in its second reading next week and the final reading at the end of the month—may finally reject it.

This would allow the NPKC to pick up any of the old constitutions for temporary use. Article 13 of the current temporary constitution, imposed after the February 23 coup d'etat, allows the NPKC to select any constitution to be used temporarily so that elections can be held if the NLA rejects the current draft charter.

Article 13 also empowers the military to amend the old constitution it selects for temporary use, but the amendment should not last more than 30 days and needs Royal approval.

The Constitution Scrutiny Committee's decision to revert back to the individual candidacy electoral system instead of adhering to the party-slate system was indeed unexpected and even caused confusion among certain members of the Samakhi Tham Party, a prime supporter of the new system.

"It was like a bombshell for our party. If this electoral system is not changed back once again to a party-slate system it would mean the disintegration of our party," said one senior Samakkhi Tham Party [STP) member.

"I was very surprised. It was unexpected," the senior member said, adding that this was the general feeling of other party members.

"I'm so confused now. How could this happen?" admitted Pichai Mongkhonwirakun, a former Kalasin MP.

The STP has lobbied hard for the party-slate system and many politicians agreed to join the party after being assured that the NPKC would adopt the system which would help the new party sweep a large number of seats in the North and Northeast.

But during an STP assembly meeting yesterday, senior members assured their confused flock that nothing had changed and that there was nothing to worry about.

"The possibility is that this (draft) constitution may not get the approval from the NLA and there is a considerable chance that the NPKC may pick up the 1978 constitution to be used temporarily," said one STP deputy leader.

Compared to the current draft constitution, the 1978 version is the lesser of two evils, though it allows government officials to hold political posts at the same time.

Under Articles 90 and 91 of the original version of the 1978 constitution, the party-slate system is in place with each province being one constituency and Bangkok divided into three constituencies.

The 1978 constitution allows government officials to hold political posts during what is called a transition period. At the time the 1978 constitution was in use, this transition period was between April 22, 1979 and April 22, 1983.

This period corresponded with the first four years of a six-year term of senators who were appointed.

But in the provisional clause, the 1978 constitution stated that during the transition period, voters would be allowed to elect their representatives individually in a small constituency with a maximum three MPs in each constituency.

But in 1985, this constitution was successfully changed following an amendment move initiated by former Social Action Party leader M.R. Khukrit Pramot on June 7 of that year.

M.R. Khukrit sought to replace the party-slate system with a system where there are no more than three MPs in each constituency and voters could elect their representatives individually.

On 22 July 1985, parliament members including senators, voted 298 to 17 in favour of the proposed amendment. Of the 298 votes, 101 supporting votes came from senators.

One informed political source said that if the 1978 constitution is selected by the NPKC for temporary use, the NPKC is likely to favour the original version and not the one amended in 1985.

This would mean that Samakkhi Tham would retain its political edge since the original version maintains a party-slate system and allows government officials to hold political posts.

"I think this might be the way out for the current political scenario," said one senior STP member.

Despite the apparent reversal of its political fortunes as a result of the decision to revert back to the individual candidacy system, the STP is still confident of its future.

Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai believes that political turmoil is inevitable in the near future. He said the NPKC was corrupted by power.

"It (constitution) is not like drawing our country back into the canal but the country is being dragged into the hole. It's unthinkable that they dare to abuse the power so much that no one could believe it," said the leader.

Military Seeking 'Parliamentary Dictatorship'

BK1811030591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Nov 91 p A10

[Editorial: "Military Dictatorship Has No Legitimacy in Any Form"]

[Text] Army Commander and Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun will hold a press conference today to "explain" what the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] has achieved since the Feb 23 coup. Gen Suchinda, in his capacity as deputy chairman of the military council, is expected to emphasize the NPKC's "achievements" in strengthening national security and modernizing the armed forces. Air Force Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshall] Kaset Rojananin, also a deputy chairman of the NPKC, and Navy Commander Adm [Admiral] Wichet Karunyawanit, a NPKC member, will also be present to give their points of view.

The NPKC leaders claimed over the weekend that the hastily-called press conference had nothing to do with the growing criticism of the revised draft constitution. The revised draft, it has become increasingly clear, is simply a blueprint for the NPKC to build a parliamentary dictatorship and rule the country for at least four more years with full constitutionality, chiefly through the appointment of 360 senators who would have similar powers as that of the elected 360 MPs in the House of Representatives.

The NPKC leaders will likely continue to assert that they had "nothing" to do with the review of the draft constitution—even though they handpicked the 25 members on the review committee, which included NPKC spokesman Gen Chamlaeng Uchukomon and Assistant Army Chief Gen Sanya Siphen. The two generals, the NPKC leaders argue, took part in the review in their personal capacity as members of the National Assembly.

This is as credible as their other claim that the National Assembly will have "full liberty" in discussing further revisions in the draft constitution, which is scheduled to face a second reading beginning tomorrow. The legislative body has been dismissed as a military rubber-stamp ever since the NPKC packed it with senior military officers, submissive bureaucrats and token representatives from the private sector.

Most of the National Assembly members will stay on the sidelines and watch the review committee stonewall those trying to introduce any meaningful change to the revised draft. The second reading will not be broadcast live, as it is a result of the NPKC's policy and the Anan administration has no objection to it. People will have to read the newspapers to find out how the review committee defend some of its outrageous ideas.

And don't expect to catch much news about the session on television. The Anan administration has advised state enterprise TV Channels 3 and 9 to refrain from airing views critical of the revised constitution; Army-owned Channels 5 and 7 are dutifully toeing the military line, and the Public Relations Department's Channel 11 is censoring itself to avoid offending the powers-that- be.

Instead of the pretension that they did not dictate the revised draft constitution, the NPKC leaders should step forward and defend their ideas. They should tell the country why they think a parliamentary dictatorship is more desirable than a freely elected civilian government.

Is it because Thailand is still threatend by some powerful forces, and thus the country needs the military leaders in power in the government and armed forces simultaneously to protect it? If so, please tell us, so we can all stand up and help cope with such a dire threat.

The military leaders have accused the politicians of the last administration of abusing their power and amassing wealth illegally. Now a large number of these devious politicians are in two pro-NPKC parties, Sammakhitham and Chat Thai, which are backing Gen Suchinda for the next premiership. These politicians certainly are no longer "enemies" of the NPKC.

If the military leaders want people to believe that they have not been manipulating things behind the scenes, then they should tell us what have they done to prepare the country for a return to parliamentary democracy. Tell us also whether they have made any progress in preparing to return government power to the people—like they promised on the day they seized power from the Chatchai administration.

We also would like to hear whether they have let the Anan administration play any part in rebuilding a foundation for a "genuine democracy" to stand on and take root. The only time we saw Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun try to find a role for himself in this noble endeavour was on Saturday night, when he voiced objections to a few points in the revised draft constitution.

The military leaders are no doubt experts on national security. They could not have failed to notice that the revised draft constitution contained seeds of political destruction that no elected politicians—regardless how unscrupulous or selfish—had ever tried to use before for their narrow, personal interests.

If Gen Suchinda and his colleagues on the NPKC want to talk about national security today, they must discuss about how the parliamentary dictatorship they apparently have in mind would create legitimacy and win popular acceptance. For a government without legitimacy cannot hope to maintain national security for long.

Vietnam

Do Muoi Receives U.S. Economic Delegation

BK1811160391 Hanoi VNA in English 1539 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.18—Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, on Nov. 15 received a delegation of the Harvard International Development Institute led by Director Dr. Dwight Perkins.

The delegation includes Ms. Andrea Panasitis from the Christopher Reynolds Fund.

Dr. D. Perkins highly appreciated the Vietnamese Government and people's efforts in renovation. He expressed his hope that the Harvad International Development Institute would continue helping Vietnam in the training of economic managers and cooperating with Vietnam's research institutes in matters related to Vietnam's macro-economic policies in the change to a market-oriented economy.

Dr. Perkins said he believed that Vietnam's renovation would help it tide over the immediate difficulties to develop at a quick tempo, and that normalisation of US-Vietnamese relations is near at hand.

Premier Thanks Australia for IMF Debt Aid

BK1811155991 Hanoi VNA in English 1542 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.18—Premier Vo Van Kiet received here this afternoon the visiting Australian trade delegation led by Minister for Trade and Overseas Development Neal Blewett.

The Vietnamese leader warmly thanked the Australian Government for its assistance and cooperation over the past years. He highly appreciated the Australian Government's participation in the France-initiated support group to help Vietnam clear its overdue debts to the International Monetary Fund. He said he hoped that this visit would strengthen the economic and trade ties between Vietnam and Australia in the interests of both peoples. Vo Van Kiet asked the Australian minister to convey his invitation to the Australian Prime Minister for a visit to Vietnam in the near future.

This morning, the Australian delegation had a working session with an economic and trade delegation of Vietnam led by Minister of Trade and Tourism Le Van Triet.

Premier Receives Malaysian Senatorial Delegation

BK1811161991 Hanoi VNA in English 1536 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 18—Premier Vo Van Kiet received here today the visiting Malaysian senatorial delegation led by Speaker Datuk Chan Choong Tak.

Vo Van Kiet highly appraised Malaysia's achievements in national construction which, he said, bear great economic as well as political significance not only for Malaysia but also for the whole region. Malaysia's successes are what the Vietnamese people are striving for, he added.

Vo Van Kiet stressed that Malaysia's experiences in economic construction and development are very valuable for Vietnam and that Malaysia is a trustworthy friend of Vietnam.

For his part, Datuk Chan Choong Tak informed the Vietnamese leader of Malaysia's economic developments, especially those fields where Malaysia wants to cooperate with Vietnam such as tourism, oil and gas, and mining. He expresed his hope that the Vietnamese-Malaysia relations will be further strengthened in the context of positive changes in the region. He expressed satisfaction at the normalisation of Sino-Vietnamese relations and Vietnam's relations with several countries in the region. This, he said, is a positive contribution of Vietnam to strengthening the friendship, cooperation and development in the region.

Talks were held here this morning between a National Assembly delegation of Vietnam and the visiting Malaysian senatorial delegation.

VNA Reviews Thai Cultural, Sports Ties

BK1711155991 Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 17—Since early this year, the cultural, information and sport ties between the two neighbouring countries of Vietnam and Thailand have witnessed constant development.

In March 1991, the second workshop on Vietnamese-Thai relationship was held at the Vietnam Institute of Social Sciences in Hanoi. In May the same year, a delegation of Thai scholars led by Doctor Ekawit Nanthalang, general secretary of Thailand Committee for Cultural Research Centre under the Hanoi University [as received]. While here, it visited the northern mountain provinces of Son La and Lai Chau.

In July this year, a group of ten Vietnamese scholars visited Thailand, which was followed by a visit to Vietnam of the principal of Chiang Mai University in northern Thailand.

General director and Editor-in-Chief of the Vietnam Television Pham Khac Lam visited Thailand in August 1991 and in September last, an art troupe of the Hanoi Cultural College made a performance tour in Thailand at the invitation of Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also in September, Professor Phan Cu De, director of the Centre For Studies of World Culture of the Hanoi University, paid a visit to Bangkok as guest of the Thammasat and Chulalongkon universities.

A women volleyball team of Vietnam participated in the Asian Volleyball Tournament held in Bangkok in late September and early October.

A representative office of the English-language daily 'THE NATION' of Thailand was opened in Hanoi while VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY is preparing to open its bureau in Bangkok.

A delegation of museum experts of the Hanoi Cultural Service is going to visit a number of historical relics and architectural projects in Thailand.

During his September 17-19,1991 Vietnam visit, Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, together with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam, affirmed the two countries' determination to promote their economic, trade and cultural ties.

Joint-Soviet Hydro-Meterological Meet Opens

BK1611153991 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 16—The first session of the 13th meeting between the meteorological and hydrological delegations of Vietnam and the Soviet Union in the framework of the agreement on scientific and technological cooperation in tropical meteorology and storm research opened here today.

The Vietnamese delegation is led by Nguyen Duc Ngu, director of the General Department of Hydro-Meteorology, and the Soviet delegation by V.M. Zakharov, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Hydro-Meteorology.

The meeting will review the implementation fo the agreements signed at the 12th meeting (1990) and discuss the 1992 cooperation plan in the context of the new relations between the two countries. The meeting will last ten days.

Britain Donates $34,000 To Aid Flood Victims

BK1711100291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The government of the United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland recently decided to give $34,000 in aid to typhoon and flood victims in the Mekong River Delta. This amount of money will be sent through the British organization World Vision.

Earlier, the British Government also donated $35,000 to typhoon and flood victims in Son La province.

British oil companies currently operating in Vietnam—such as Enterprise Oil, Shell, and British Petroleum—also collected as many as $46,000 to help flood victims in the Mekong river delta.

The total amount of cash donations from Britain to typhoon and flood victims in Vietnam has thus far reached nearly $115,000.

Sweden Donates Funds for Environmental Projects

BK1711154991 Hanoi VNA in English 1504 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 17—The Swedish Government has decided to finance US dollars 8.2 million for two environmental protection projects at the United Pulp and Paper Enterprises of Dong Nai (South Vietnam) and Vinh Phu (North Vietnam). The sum, given through the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), is not included in Sweden's annual aid to Vietnam.

The agreements on environmental protection for Dong Nai and Vinh Phu Enterprises were signed on November 19, 1990 and November 14, 1991 respectively.

International Symposium on Nutrition Opens 14 Nov

BK1711132091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] An international symposium on nutrition in primary health care in developing countries was opened in Hanoi this morning, 14 November, by the Institute of Nutrition of the Ministry of Public Health. Attending the opening ceremony, among the others, was Comrade Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The symposium will be held for three days to exchange views on the health conditions of people in the developing countries and issues relating to nutrition, primary health care, and the ecosystem.

The delegates will also spare some time visiting a number of establishments that are known to have satisfactorily performed work related to nutrition and primary healih care.

Speaking at the ceremony, Comrade Nguyen Khanh said: Due to half a century of war and a poorly developed economy, the state of malnutrition and health of our people have caused great concern. Faced with this situation, our government has, in recent years, paid attention to the people's health through the adoption of many policies, especially the policy on mother-and-child care. However, activities related to nutrition and health care still suffer a lack of coordination between various sectors, especially those at the grass-roots level.

The comrade vice chairman of the Council of Ministers expressed the hope that this symposium will effect the measures to overcome weaknesses, thereby contributing effectively to work related to nutrition and mother-and-child care.

Vo Chi Cong Greets 'Arafat on National Day

BK1711133691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] On 14 November, Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong sent a message of greetings to His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the declaration of the founding of the State of Palestine.

Ho Chi Minh City Builds Two Export Zones

BK1711162091 Hanoi VNA in English 1531 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 17—Work is underway to build two export zones in Ho Chi Minh City. One is the Saigon Export Processing Zone, Sepzone, which covers 58 hectares at Linh Trung Village, Thu Duc District, on a well marked-out site convenient for transportation—19km from the heart of the city, 25km from Tan Son Nhat Airport, 14 km from new port, and 22 km from the Port of Saigon.

Sepzone enjoys many privileges as stipulated in the statute issued last October by the Council of Ministers. Among these is income tax exemption for four years for production enterprises, and 2 years for service enterprises, counted from the date of first recorded profits.

Over 400 foreigners have come to investigate possibilities for investment in Sepzone. Some of them have already paid rent deposits. Once Sepzone has completed its feasibility study and interior and exterior zonings, it will sign contracts with Pembangunan Anika Sdn Bhd [Private Limited], Malaysia, and Vatti Investment Lta, Hongkong, for infrastruture construction.

The other new zone currently underway is the Tan Thuan Corporation (TTC), which is shared by two Taiwanese companies-Panviet Corporation, and Central Trade and Development Corporation, which specialises in designing, building, and dealing in infrastructures in Tan Thuan.

The newly licenced venture is valid for 50 years with a prescribed capital of over US dollars 88.9 million. It is allowed to use its own money or invite foreign investment in electricity, water and gas supply for Tan Thuan and the surrounding area. It may also engage in transportation of goods to and from the border and to other destinations outside Tan Thuan.

TTC is authorised to post tariff for land rent as well as collect rent and other public service fees. It is allowed also to lease or sell its workshops.

A supplementary project of TTC will be the construction and maintenance of highways from the northern part of Nha Be District to Phu Lam in Binh Chanh District, once approval from the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment is given. As it is one of the few infrastructure projects in Ho Chi Minh City, TTC has priority for foreign investment.

State Bank Decision Adjusts Interest Rates

BK1811100291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] The governor of the Vietnam State Bank just signed a decision to adjust interest rates of savings and loans of the bank as follows:

The interest rate of savings accounts and deposit accounts of economic units is 1 percent per month including money deposited for financial transaction, advance payment which did not earn interest before, and money in savings accounts which earned the interest of 0.9 percent per month before.

The interest rate of three-month fixed savings accounts is 2.1 percent per month. The interest for these accounts used to be 1.8 percent per month.

The interest rate of six-month fixed savings accounts is 2.4 percent per month. This type of savings account is just added to the savings account system.

The interest rates of loans to peasants and non-state economic units is between 4 to 5 percent per month.

The interest rates of loans to state-run economic are 2.7, 3.3, and 3.7 percent per month depending on the units' type of business.

The interest rates of loans to be used for fixed assets: for state-run economic units is 2.52 percent per month; for non-state economic units is 3.6 percent per month.

The interest rate of overdue debts is 150 percent loading of the interest of the loan.

The new interest rates of savings and loans are to applied on 15 November 1991. The balance of savings and loans accounts carried over at the close of business on 14 November 1991 is to apply with these new interest rates.

Second-Round Hanoi Party Congress Opens 16 Nov

BK1711125791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Station correspondent Tran Trong Truy's report on the 11th second-round congress of the Hanoi party organization]

[Summary] At the Vietnamese-Soviet Culture and Friendship Palace this morning, the 11th second-round congress of the Hanoi party opened with "437 delegates representing nearly 140,000 members of the organization" attending. The congress was honored by the presence of Party General Secretary Do Muoi. "Attending were Comrades Pham Van Dong, advisor to the party Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, advisor to the party Central Committee and chairman of the State Council; Vo Van Kiet, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Dao Duy Tung, Political Bureau member and party Central Committee secretary; Le Phuoc Tho, Political Bureau member and head of the party Central Committee Organization Department;" and representatives of various departments and committees of the Central Committees, and large numbers of radio and news agency reporters.

"Following the national anthem and the Internationale, on behalf of the Presidium, Comrade Pham The Duyet, Political Bureau member and the Hanoi party committee secretary delivered the opening speech."

Comrade Pham evaluated the implementation of the 10th second-round congress resolution of the party organization and clearly stated the objectives of the various political, socioeconomic, cultural, national defense and security domains in the coming years. He then summarily reported on some fundamental issues in the political report already made public by the capital's mass media.

On the achievements and weaknesses in the four years of renovation in the capital, Comrade Pham The Duyet said:

[Begin Pham recording] "After more than four years of renovation in the capital, very important results have been achieved. Of note is that political stability has been firmly maintained as the domestic and international situation developed in a complicated manner. This has ensured favorable conditions for the successful renovation of some aspects of the socioeconomy. Moreover, since Hanoi is the capital, its political stability is great of significance to the entire country. The city's economy has begun to improve with better living conditions for a segment of the population. The expansion of socialist democracy also bear testimony to the results of the renovation.

"There are some differing views on this assessment, especially on the extent of the achievements. However, if we look back at the situation before the sixth national party congress and the city's 10th second-round party congress, we realized that we have scored important initial achievements. Then bureaucratic centralism and subsidies were still heavy, production and business operations were impractical with false profits and real losses. There was also a scarcity of goods, trade barriers, the sluggish distribution of goods, serious shortages of electricity and water, and bad transportation.

"Apart from the achievements of the party organization congresses at all levels, the people of all strata have contributed their views on remedying many weaknesses and shortcomings. The political report has manifested this frank expression of views, prominent among which is the slow development of the city's economy that does not commensurate with its position and potential, declining rates of production and the ever increasing unemployed. All these had a great impact on the various aspects of the socioeconomy. The livelihood of wage-earners, retirees, recipients of social welfare policies, workers of loss-making factories and peasants in regions hit by natural disasters is still very difficult.

"The evil of corruption has festered and is serious; discipline and law and order has slackened; some aspects of city management such as order in the streets, traffic and construction have become ineffective; and the ethics and the civilized and courteous lifestyles of the city's urbanites have deteriorated.

"Concerning party building tasks, a majority of views recognized that the results of the renovation cannot be separated from the leadership of party organizations at all levels. Instead, it emphatically points at the major shortcomings and weakness. Particularly, no small a number of basic party organizations have failed to bring their leadership role into play. Corruption which has prevailed among a segment of cadres and party members is causing the people to lose their confidence. Cadres are still distant from the people. The education of party members has been neglected for a long time. The organizational and cadre tasks have been slowly renovated and are full of shortcomings. The party organization executive committee is primarily responsible for this situation. During its 22d and 23d meetings, the city party committee frankly criticized the shortcomings of the executive and standing committees." [end Pham recording]

Dealing with the socioeconomic development tasks of the capital for the next five years, Pham The Duyet said:

[Begin Pham recording] "The political report presents five general objectives aimed at maintaining political security, developing the economy, resolving the unemployment problem, gradually stabilizing and improving the people's daily life, building and managing the capital, promoting a healthy life and new culture family, opposing corruption and negativism, broadening socialist democracy in accordance with the law and social order, improving the quality of cadres, enhancing leadership of the party organization and efficacy of administrative agencies, and encouraging activities of mass organizations. We must strive to increase the capital's gross social product by six to seven percent annually, and the per capita productivity by 4.2-5.1 percent. We must provide jobs to at least 40,000 workers annually and build one million square meters of living quarters in five years.

"To implement these five objectives, the political report suggests seven major tasks for the city's party organization and people to carry out in the next five years. These include efforts to stabilize and develop the economy; improve the social, scientific, educational, and cultural domains; strengthen construction and management work in the capital, firmly maintain social security and order, consolidate national defense, promote socialist democracy, observe discipline, enhance the authorities' management and mass organizations' role, and strengthen the leadership of the party organizations and its and competitiveness. The political report finally asserts key tasks for organizing the implementation of the city's party organization's resolutions." [end Pham recording]

In his address to the congress, General Secretary Do Muoi highly appraised achievements scored by the city's party organization and people during the four years of implementing the renovation. Do Muoi also made some suggestions for the city in carrying out its socioeconomic development program. He stressed the significance of the party building task and efforts to renovate the party and enhance its leadership. He also reported on the results of the recent official friendship visit to China and other countries in Southeast Asia by the high-level Vietnamese delegation, and developments in the settlement of the Cambodian issue.

Conrade Pham The Duyet, on behalf of the congress and the entire Hanoi party organization, expressed gratitude to the party Central Committee Political Bureau and the Secretariat for their attention given to the socioeconomic development program of the capital. He pledged with General Secretary Do Muoi that the Hanoi party organization will seriously study views, directives, and suggestions he made so as to build the capital into a great center of development.

The second round party organization congress of Hanoi will conclude on 20 November.

An Giang Antismuggling Campaign Success Noted

BK1711162391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] From 27 October to 5 November, an inspection team of the Council of State led by Comrade Nguyen Thi Dinh, vice president of the Vietnamese Council of State, inspected the tasks of fighting corruption and smuggling in An Giang.

The inspection team worked with a group of An Giang national assembly deputies, the provincial people's committee and people's council, and the control, court, and custom sectors, border defense and armed forces, and front and other mass organizations of the province. It also made a specific study of the tasks of fighting corruption and smuggling in the province in the recent past.

The team noted that after one year of implementing Directive No. 278 of the Council of Ministers on the anti-smuggling campaign, An Giang has basically been able to prevent smuggling among state-run and collectively-owned economic units at various levels and in all sectors, and has concentrated efforts to fight smuggling in society.

As a result, the province has detected and made arrests in more than 26,000 cases of smuggling with a total value of 27 billion dong. This includes large amounts of foreign currency, gold, and precious stones. Some 45 cases and 64 convicts have been brought to trial.

The province has taken disciplinary action against 560 party members and legal action in 73 cases against 102 convicts on charges of infraction. However, the struggle against smuggling and corruption in a number of organs and units and among cadres, workers, civil servants, and the people has been carried out unenthusiastically and without a sense of responsibility, uniform plans, and close coordination between the sectors concerned.

The inspection team also presented its views and provided guidance for motivating the masses and dealing with various cases in the struggle against smuggling and corruption in the days ahead.

Vu Oanh at Front Meeting in Thai Binh Province

BK1711094191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] From 11-14 November in Thai Binh, the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee convened a conference to review the implementation of the front task at the village level.

Attending the conference were the comrade chairmen and vice chairmen of the fatherland front committees in the northern provinces and cities; delegates from 20 model districts and villages; representatives of the various party central committee departments and the offices of the National Assembly, the Council of State, and the Council of Ministers; delegates from the various ministries and sectors concerned as well as organizations affiliated to the VFF; and leading comrade officials in Thai Binh Province.

Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, attended and addressed the conference.

In implementing the resolutions of the seventh party congress and the third VFF Congress, the front task has been focussed on grass-roots establishments to help resolve the concrete problems facing the people on the political and socioeconomic fronts. At the village level, the front has helped its affiliated organizations with solutions to the problems facing peasants and the countryside. The organization and operating procedures of the village level front task have been renovated to improve the work performance of the village and hamlet

front committees or front cells and to gradually get rid of formalism and to attach importance to efficiency.

The conference set forth the key tasks for the village level front task for implementation from now until 1992 as follows: It is important to positively contribute to promoting agricultural, forestry, and fishery production and to link it with the processing industries as well as with the task of building a new countryside; consolidate the all-people solidarity bloc; firmly maintain political stability and public security and order in the rural areas; motivate peasants to implement cultural and social policies; join hands with the state in the campaign against illiteracy and for compulsory primary education; build public utility projects; and motivate people of all walks of life to contribute constructive opinions to the constitutional amendments and respond to the movement to live and work in accordance with the Constitution.

Nguyen Khanh Visits Thang Long Biology College

BK1811071991 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Recently, Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and Tran Hong Quan, minister of education and training visited the Thang Long Biology College which is headed by Dr. Hoang Xuan Phi.

Comrade Nguyen Khanh hailed the college's teachers and students for their efforts in building the college and for having studies when the college did not have its own premises and when the teaching fees were mostly covered by the students' contributions.

Formed since late 1989, the Thang Long Biology College has run four courses with 200 students each. Today, the college has 150 students in the first, second, and third years. Last year, the college enrolled many good students in its course and sent four students to France for further study.

Comrade Nguyen Khanh considered that the college was a model of new education and that some experiences can be drawn from the college's management in establishing government-funded private schools. These experiences can also be applied in private schools in the selection of subjects, teachers, and teaching methods to improve teaching quality.

He also requested the Ministry of Education and Training to help the college more so the Thang Long Biology College can become an education center able to train many good scientists for the country.

NHAN DAN Article on Survival of Socialism

BK1411061791 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 26 Oct 91 pp 1, 4

[Article by Professor Thai Ninh: "Socialism and Its Vitality"]

[Text] In only a few more years, the second millenium will end and the twentieth century will go down in history as a century full of heroic sagas and world-shattering events. The Russian October Revolution in 1917 opened a new era for human progress, after months and years of fierce fighting in the World War II put cruel fascism to death and shaped a new social system—the world socialist system. National liberation struggles fermented, taking place and scoring glorious victories on all burning continents. The scientific, technical, and industrial revolution has given man wings to fly into space with much pride and has achieved numerous goals that formerly the most talented fiction writers could not visualize. However, history is not structured with only arches of triumph gloriously beaming halos and constantly resounding victory songs. The path of history is not a velvet carpeted one, nor is it marked with countless milestones. The twentieth century further witnessed many dramatic and painful events caused by extermination extermination, natural disasters, and socialist defeats in Eastern and Central Europe and even in the Soviet Union.

Witnessing the "political earthquakes" that caused the socialist regime to collapse in a series of Eastern Europe countries and the Soviet Union, some people have gloatingly proclaimed the demise of Marxism and the total collapse of socialism by the year 2000. Mocking and provocative statements have been heard here and there that socialism is "in the throes of death", that it is digging its own grave, and that people are burying socialism. Some others have pretended to pity the "four helpless orphans" of Marxism. Is it all this true?

Socialism is the inevitable and objective evolution of mankind. It has gone through a course of fierce struggle, has overcome many ordeals, and has assumed meritorious positions and roles in the modern and contemporary history. Socialism has demonstrated its vitality. Here, we should distinguish socialism from realistic socialism in some given countries.

Socialism as a doctrine and a system of general concepts and categories together with its principles and laws is the product of a process that develops the theoretical thinking about human society. It is a continuous overall summary of values in the history of human thought. Socialism is a revolutionary ideal that manifests workers' lofty dreams and burning aspirations about a just and equal society in which everyone can live a plentiful and happy life. This dream and aspiration appeared very early in the history of human society in ancient times. Nevertheless, socialist ideology as a doctrine and theory only came into shape in the struggle against capitalism to eliminate the system of private capitalist ownership and to build a socialist society. In the beginning, socialism was still characterized by utopia typically represented by Thomas More (England), Campanella (Italy), and then Saint Simon and Fourier (France), and Owen (England). Utopian socialism opposed capitalism, profoundly criticised the exploitative capitalist regime, advocated the elimination of capitalist ownership and socialized means of production. This is the prominent point of utopian socialism and so has become a direct ideological premise and, at the same time, one of the theoretical origins of Marxism. However, visions of utopia were the biggest restrictions on socialism because they opposed capitalism by persuading the ruling bourgeoisie to share its wealth with workers. Utopia also tried to accomplish a model of a socialist society right in the heart of the capitalist system with a view to setting an example, and on this basis to encourage capitalists to follow.

Marx and Engels selectively acquired, criticized, and creatively developed the ideological values of utopian socialism, turning it from a utopia into a science. Scientific socialism is now 100 years old already. If counting from the time when utopian socialism was born, the history of socialism is 300 or more years long. Throughout its existence, scientific socialism has asserted its vitality, has successively scored victories, and has actually become a powerful material force. This is the very reason why it has been constantly attacked and criticized by its enemies all along since its inception. Particularly after socialism was realized in Russia in 1917 and since it became a world system, the enemy opposition and attack has become all the more fierce. Socialism has been counterattacked from many directions of capitalism, imperialism, fascism, and theologies of all kinds...from traitors within the communist and worker movement, and from opportunists in the very heart of socialist countries. Hostile forces have relentlessly opposed socialism in a very fierce manner through their insidious plots and maneuvers now brazen and cruel, now subtle and crafty, and still have not succeeded in wiping out socialism. Not only was socialism not defeated, but it had repelled and smashed up large fragments of the imperialist sytem to become the world system of 15 countries and the goal for many countries struggling for national independence. Its attractiveness was strong, broad, and profound. Many kinds of socialism have appeared in history: feudalistic socialism, democratic socialism, critical socialism, and petty bourgeois socialism. Until the 1950s and 1960s of this century, several kinds of realist socialism were born: Christian socialism, royal socialism, Muslim socialism, and Buddhist socialism. Not all kinds of socialism are revolutionary and scientific. Yet the bloom of various kinds of socialism testifies to its attractiveness and broad and profound influence, and to the positive action of scientific socialism in the history and future of human society.

Speaking on the longevity of socialism and asserting its inevitable substitute for capitalism in history does not mean that we refuse to admit setbacks of socialist construction in this or that country. The point is that we should not mistake the collapse of a socialist regime in this and that country as the collapse of scientific socialism. The collapse resulted from many objective and subjective causes, certainly including the erroneous application of principles and laws of scientific socialism, the incorrect determination of socialist models unsuitable and inappropriate to the specific historical situation of each given country, or impatience to get ahead of schedule in the process of socialist construction. Sometimes, it was because of conservatism, sluggishness, revisionism, and rightism which deviate us from principles and degenerates socialism. In other instances, it was because of confusion, loss of vigilance, and irresolute and untimely struggle against the plots and maneuvers of all sorts of enemies.

The important point that we must assert is that although the anti-socialist forces can overthrow socialist regimes in this or that country, they cannot wipe out the gains of socialism, nor can they eliminate the ideas of socialism among the people, together with the ethical values, qualities, and beautiful lifestyle created by socialism through many decades.

Since no one can stamp out man's dream, no one can kill the correct thoughts of socialism. The process of mustering the revolutionary forces is now taking place again in the Soviet Union as well as in East European countries. Many political organizations have been shaping up to continue the long struggle along the socialist line. The U.S. weekly, TIME, dated 9 September 1991 wrote about the Soviet Union and admitted: "Ridding this country of communist influence is probably not so simple as confiscating housing quarters and holding bank accounts." Life has clearly indicated that socialism in history possesses strong attacking power. So, following this heavy and serious crisis, even though the socialist camp has been narrowed, socialism still can and will certainly improve. It will recover its strength and bearing.

With such a dialectical confidence, we persistently follow the socialist path. This is the sole correct choice in keeping with the inevitable and objective evolutionary and developmental law of human society. To our country, this is a further selection by history itself. Our country has gone through many social regimes: feudalism, semi-feudalism, colonialism and neocolonialism. Our people were also living in slavery under the yoke of cruel domination by colonialist, imperialist and fascist forces. The history of Vietnam itself has given our people the ability to compare and select clearly and correctly. From such a comparison, our people have concluded and asserted that only by following the socialist path, can our country be genuinely independent and reunified, and can our people be able to have a plentiful and happy life. This choice is totally legitimate and our people have the full right to decide their road and steps.

Our people are clearsighted enough to expose and frustrate all plots to economically envelop and politically isolate our country to bleed it. We resolutely reject all attempts to ostracize and smear socialism, and nakedly expose the hypocritical face of those who formerly sowed death and disaster in our country, and now want to lecture about democracy and human rights to our people.

A profound lesson that our party and people must learn is to always stand firm on the real Vietnamese territory to creatively apply and develop Marxism-Leninism. Socialist construction is a new and unprecedented undertaking in history. This is a process of learning, working, and drawing out experiences in both success and failure. This is also a hard, dangerous, and fierce struggle. Socialism was not born complete with everything. It is something to become and must be built from the very beginning. This constitutes a long and hard struggle in all fields. As a result, socialist construction must necessarily be linked closely to the defense of socialism. This is an issue of binding nature.

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 18 Nov

BK1811080991 Hanoi VNA in English 0637 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 18—Newspapers here today and Sunday frontpage reports on the opening here on November 16 of the eleventh congress (second round) of the Hanoi party organization, which is attended by 435 delegates representing nearly 140,000 party members.

The papers publish in full party General Secretary Do Muoi's speech at the congress in which he urged the leaders and people of Hanoi to try to make Hanoi more beautiful and more developed.

Other frontpage reports are about activities here of the Malaysian Senate delegation led by Speaker Datuk Chan Choon Tak and of an economic and trade delegation of the Australian Government led by Minister for Trade and Overseas Development Dr. Neal Blewett.

The delegation of the Japanese Parliamentarian's Federation for Population (JPFP) led by Doctor Hironori Inoue, member of Japan's House of Representative and vice president of JPFP, is reported to have left here on November 16 after a five day visit.

The 13th session between the meteorological and hydrological delegations of Vietnam and the Soviet Union in the framework of the agreement on scientific and technological cooperation in tropical meteorology and storm research opened here on November 16, the papers say.

The papers report that asked by Vietnam News Agency to comment on foreign reports alleging that some Americans captured during the war in Vietnam were later taken to the Soviet Union, a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry on November 16 said that Vietnam had returned all Americans captured during the war and absolutely none had been delivered to a third country.

Another report says that the Swedish Government has decided to finance US dollars 8.2 million for two environmetal protection projects at the United Pulp and Paper Enterprises of Dong Nai (south Vietnam) and Vinh Phu (north Vietnam). International news reports say that a meeting was held in Pnom Penh on November 16 morning by the Cambodian Government to welcome Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Supreme Natioal Council of Cambodia (SNC), back home after 13 years living abroad, and that US Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Beijing on November 15 for a three-day visit to China.

Australia

Territory Bans Dealings With Indonesian Firms

BK1911060991 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Unions in Australia's Northern Territory have imposed bans on Indonesian enterprises and shipping between the territory and Indonesia. As Mark Bowling reports, the bans are in response to last week's massacre of civilians in East Timor by Indonesian troops.

[Begin Bowling recording] Calls for union sanctions came from the Northern Territory's East Timorese community and was agreed to by the Trades and Labor Council this morning. The bans will stop all shipping between the territory and Indonesia while a ban has already been placed on electrical maintenance of communications and power services to the Indonesian Consulate in Darwin.

Discussions with the ACTU [Australian Council of Trade Unions] may extend the Indonesian embargo nationwide. [end recording]

Fiji

Premier on Changed Regional Security Situation

BK1911132591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0735 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Suva, Nov 19 (AFP)—Fiji wants closer defence and trade ties with South East Asian countries because of increasing concerns for security in the Pacific Islands, Fiji's Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara has said.

He warned in an interview soon to be published in the regional news magazine PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY that the end of the Cold War had given birth to new trouble spots in the region, and that the demise of the influence of the superpowers had put security into a new perspective.

Revealing some hostility towards traditional trading partners Australia and New Zealand, he said he believed the Pacific region could look to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) for new defence arrangements.

Closer ties with Southeast Asia should be sought even if it meant distancing the region from New Zealand and Australia, he said.

"You're talking to someone who's been the victim of the wrath of those two countries."

Referring to the reactions of New Zealand and Australia immediately after the first Fiji coup in May 1987, he said: "I never knew it could happen, so we may as well look elsewhere.

"I think they still don't understand.

"We have never tried to interfere with the problems of the Maoris in New Zealand or the Aborigines in Australia, yet they thought we are doing this to the Indians or that to the Indians.

"I thought that was pure arrogance."

He said he believed Fiji had a lot to gain from closer ties with ASEAN. "They know our experience, they have made it," he said.

These countries were an untapped source of material Fiji was now getting from Australia, the United States and Britain, he said.

"Apart from security itself, if we moved along toward them and let them be concerned with our welfare our problem will be solved."

Rabuka Faces Loss of Cabinet Position

BK1811090091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0817 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Suva, Nov 18 (AFP)—Fiji coup leader Sitiveni Rabuka said here Monday he could lose his cabinet post in the wake of his election as president of the Fiji Political Party (FPP).

Rabuka told AFP that Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara wanted him to leave the government because of his election as party president on October 31.

"The PM (Prime Minister) is recommending that my position in Cabinet be revoked," said Rabuka, who is home affairs minister and a deputy prime minister.

"He has told Cabinet," he added.

The FPP, sponsored by the Great Council of Chiefs, elected Rabuka for the leadership ahead of Mara's wife, Adi Lady Lala, a paramount chief herself.

In July this year Mara sacked Apisai Tora from the post of utilities and infrastructure minister after his election as president of the new multiracial All National Congress (ANC).

Rabuka said a decision on his case should be made by Wednesday.

The final decision rested with President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, who has just returned from a tour of the Middle East.

Ganilau and Rabuka attended an executive meeting Monday of the Native Lands Trust Board, but Rabuka said there was no mention of the matter.

The former commander of the Fiji Military Forces who led two coups in 1987 in support of the rights of indigenous Fijians over ethnic Indians, Rabuka resigned from the Armed Forces to enter the government.

Asked if he thought his case was the same as that of Tora, Rabuka said it was not.

His party, he said, was an extension of the interim government while Tora's ANC was a separate political group.

"But I may argue until the cows come home, I will not convince them," Rabuka said.

He said Education Minister Filipe Bole had resigned as FPP vice- president to remain in cabinet.

New Zealand

Minister on Regional Attitude to Antinuclear Line

BK1411143191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0800 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Wellington, Nov 18 (AFP)—Japan is embarrassed at New Zealand's anti-nuclear policy while Australia is frustrated at it, Foreign Minister Don McKinnon has reportedly told members of the ruling National Party.

But he said his government was too unpopular to deal with the issue by way of a referendum, in an address given this month to each of the party's five regional divisions, the NEW ZEALAND PRESS ASSOCIATION (NZPA) said Monday.

NZPA said it had obtained "comprehensive notes" taken by somebody present at one of the behind-closed-doors meetings.

Legislation passed by the previous Labour Government outlawed nuclear weapons and nuclear power here in 1987, leading to the effective ending of the ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand and United States) military pact.

Washington saw the policy as compromising its policy of neither confirming nor denying the existence of nuclear weapons on U.S. ships and aircraft.

While in opposition Prime Minister Jim Bolger promised to retain the law but he then announced a review of it earlier this year, after U.S. President George Bush announced the removal of nuclear weapons from surface ships.

McKinnon, who has always argued for closer ties with the United States, told the meetings the implications of the stand-off involved foreign policy and trade.

Substantial pressure was being applied on Wellington diplomatically to scrap the legislation, he said, noting that a New Zealand request to join a meeting on Pacific security with the United States, Canada, Japan and Australia in Anchorage, Alaska, was refused, though South Korea's application was accepted.

McKinnon said Australia was seeking to join the North American Free Trade Agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico and was making it very clear in Washington that New Zealand, because of its detached security posture, did not belong in such an arrangement.

Australia found it costly and frustrating to deal with New Zealand and the United States at separate levels in the defence and intelligence areas, McKinnon said.

Japan was greatly embarrassed by New Zealand's stance on nuclear ship visits and had forbidden former New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer to raise the matter during a brief visit to Japan last year, he charged.

Britain was no longer as helpful as it had been over butter access to the European Community and McKinnon said he had been told by the New Zealand Dairy Board that it was finding it much harder to negotiate with the United States.

However he said that any referendum on what to do with the anti- nuclear policy would be clouded by the government's present unpopularity.

While Bush's recent decision to remove nuclear weapons from surface naval vessels was welcome, its timing could hardly be worse from a domestic political point of view, McKinnon said.

But while the government wished the issue could have been left on the back-burner until at least 1993, after the next election, it had to be addressed.

McKinnon said the window of opportunity might not remain open for long and the government had to make the sort of response New Zealand's traditional allies expected of it soon, or risk seeing the country consigned, perhaps permanently, to irrelevance.

Former Premier Muldoon Resigns Parliament Seat

BK1711072091 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The former New Zealand prime minister, Sir Robert Muldoon, has announced he is resigning as a member of parliament after more than 30 years. Sir Robert, who is 70, was National Party prime minister for nine years from 1975, a political era in New Zealand marked by both confrontation and pragmatism.

He warned last week that he might quit saying the current National Party Government has broken its election promises. Sir Robert is said to have been particularly concerned about the government's decision to reimpose a tax surcharge on superannuation payment. And in a recent interview, he described the cabinet as idiots, making decisions little different from the failed policies of former Labor Government finance minister, Roger Douglas.

Further on Muldoon Resignation

BK1711104691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0939 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Wellington, Nov 17 (AFP)—Angry former prime minister Sir Robert Muldoon said Sunday he will quit Parliament, forcing a by-election his own deeply unpopular ruling party can ill afford.

"I've had enough," Muldoon, 70, said on a radio talk-back show. "That's it—I'm going to go."

Later Prime Minister Jim Bolger, whom Muldoon first promoted into cabinet, said he was not surprised by the decision.

Bolger said he had not tried to influence Muldoon, one way or the other.

"Whichever way you look at it, Sir Robert's 31 years in Parliament is a tremendous record. His achievement of rising to the top, being prime minister for 8 ½ years, minister of finance for the longest time anyone's been minister of finance, these are achievements I think should be reflected upon," Bolger said.

"At all times I'm sure Sir Robert did what he saw as best for New Zealand."

Muldoon's Tamaki seat, in Auckland, is among the country's wealthiest and traditionally has delivered between 52 and 60 percent of its total vote to the National Party. He has always held a record majority.

But since the National Party became government in October 1990 it has turned its back on a number of key promises, in particular superannuation.

Now, while it is not expected here that National will lose the seat, the party will have to suffer a bruising candidate selection process, pitting branches of the badly divided party against itself. Muldoon said Sunday he already had a person in mind to take the seat.

As Muldoon has irritated Bolger all year, its unlikely the prime minister will welcome the ex-prime minister's stalking horse.

Given it has so publicly walked away from many of its promises, the government will face severe difficulties devising a credible campaign.

Bolger said Sunday he thought the government would win the seat, but added by-elections were tricky.

"We will not take it cheaply," Bolger said.

Asked about the wider effect of Muldoon's resignation, he said it was impossible to tell two years out from an election.

"I certainly believe we are on track to win in 1993 and I intend that we do that because that's in New Zealand's best interests," he said.

Asked if the resignation would cause the government to re-think its approach, he said the government had pursued a consistent policy "from Day 1."

Muldoon, who after 31 years in Parliament is the country's longest serving MP, warned last week that he might quit his seat because the National Party, which he led as prime minister from 1975 to 1984, had broken promises.

He said last week he thought a by-election would "give the government a fright" and prove the extent of voter disatisfaction with current policies.

However, a poll published in Auckland's SUNDAY STAR newspaper Sunday showed only a slight drop in support for National in the constituency.

Muldoon said Sunday he had decided only an hour before going on the air that he should resign his seat.

He did not give a date when he would quit Parliament but said he would not force a by-election before Christmas.

"I'll talk to the Speaker (of Parliament) who's the one that you deal with in these things and work out a timetable with him so that the Tamaki by-election will be in the new year."

Muldoon insisted last week that his disenchantment with government policy was the main reason he was considering resigning, National Party sources have suggested that health reasons are the key.

He underwent major cardiac surgery last year and colleagues have said he has been feeling the strain of maintaining opposition to his own government's policies.

Since the election, he has consistently called for a change in economic direction, arguing that harsh cost-cutting measures aimed at balancing the budget were having a disastrous effect on growth and unemployment.

He advised Bolger to force Finance Minister Ruth Richardson to change her tactics—or sack her.

He believed that the government's policy direction would lead to National's defeat in the next election in 1993 unless a more balanced approach was taken to boost growth and create jobs.

National holds 66 seats in the 97-member Parliament against Labour's 28. There are three representatives of minor parties.

Popular Support for National Party Falls

BK1511024891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0237 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Wellington, Nov 15 (AFP)—New Zealand's governing National Party, only a year into its three-year term, came third in a poll released Friday, trailing the opposition Labour Party by 12 percent. The NATIONAL BUSINESS REVIEW poll was the first to take into account the new Alliance Party, still being formed between the small NewLabour, the Democrats, Mana Motuhake and Green parties.

The poll asked respondents which party they would have voted for had an election been held Saturday involving candidates just from the National Party, the Labour Party and the Alliance. Labour was chosen by 40 percent, the Alliance 31 percent and National by 28 percent.

Record Trade Surplus Reached

BK1411093191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0657 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Wellington, Nov 14 (AFP)—A record trade surplus of 1.29 billion New Zealand dollars (719 million U.S.) was the impetus for a 500 million dollar (279 million U.S.) improvement in New Zealand's current account deficit in the year to June 30, figures out Thursday showed.

The Statistics Department said that the current account in the 12 months to June 30 recorded a deficit of 1.78 billion dollars (993 million U.S.). This compared with a 2.33 billion dollar (1.3 billion U.S.) current account deficit in the year to March 30, and a 2.41 billion dollar (1.3 billion U.S.) shortfall for the year to June 30, 1990.

An 80 million dollar (44 million U.S.) surplus in the current account for the June quarter was the first June quarter surplus since 1973. This followed a 248 million dollar (138 million U.S.) surplus during the March quarter.

Papua New Guinea

Bougainville To Return To Government Control

BK1811070191 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] The Papua New Guinea Government is expected to bring the secessionist Bougainville island back under formal government control this week. Port Moresby correspondent Stephanie Clark reports that the country's cabinet is about to approve the establishment of interim authorities throughout the island.

[Begin Clark recording] The January Honiara Declaration between Bougainville secessionists and the national government called for an overall body be set up. But with all talks since then cancelled, the likelihood of it ever getting off the ground has faded. Instead, the government is pressing ahead with authorities in the south, northeast, northwest, and Buka.

Administrator (Sam Koulo) says shipping services directly to Tinputz and Wakunai can start in December; Buka will become the base for all of North Solomons administration.

Provincial Affairs Minister Father John Momis will give cabinet a progress report this week. [end recording]

Tonga

Crown Prince Views Calls for Political Change

BK1811101091 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 18 Nov 91

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] In the Pacific Kingdom of Tonga, the pro-democracy movement has gathered momentum with a proposal for the country's first political party. The royal family keeps a tight rein on the country and along with nobles dominate the parliament. In the last year, calls for political change have grown louder. But, while the rest of the world is heading in one direction, the small Pacific nation is holding firm. In a rare interview, the Crown Prince of Tonga Prince Tupouto'a, minister for foreign affairs, spoke to our Pacific correspondent Erina Reddan.

[Begin recording] [Tupouto'a] The thing to remember about Tonga is that the parliament is not supreme, like yours. It is in fact subordinate to the king and that is the way the Constitution was written in the last century. And, I would be opposed to operating outside the Constitution.

[Reddan] Under the Constitution the parliament is made up of 12 ministers appointed by the king, nine other nobles, and nine elected commoners. Demonstrations in the normally respectful population are almost unheard of. But earlier this year, thousands of people marched in the streets demanding a greater say in government.

The pro-democracy campaigners are spearheaded by three of the commoner MP's. They organized themselves around what was then the illegal sale of 420 passports to mainly Hong Kong Chinese. The Kingdom of Tonga even gave some away, including to Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos of the Philippines, who looked at one stage as if they might need a Pacific hideaway.

The pro-democracy movement has got a major victory by forcing the government to hold an extraordinary session of parliament, which then voted retroactive legislation to legalize the passport sales. But, change is slow. The prince does take some responsibility for the growing disaffection.

[Tupout'a] But the dissatisfaction is really of our own making, because we have improved the economic status of the people so rapidly since 1982, that it was natural that they should want a say in their own future. (?It will be) unrealistic not to have expected pressure for political change once the change in economic circumstances had come into effect.

[Reddan] You said that you expect that in a sense, does that mean that you will open up the government [words indistinct] their demands?

[Tupout'a] I do not see how we could open it up more than at present, under the present rule. I would say, however, at the present day people's [words indistinct] use forms of words which are generally regarded as impolite. And impoliteness, though may well be an advantage in some countries, is a tremendous disadvantage in Tonga especially when you are trying to put a case across.

[Reddan] What of the criticism about the government's lack of accountability and authoritarianism?

[Tupout'a] It is not entirely like that, but I would imagine that there have been instances where we should have explained ourselves a little better, and occasionally we have been guilty of a little bit of [word indistinct] too. [end recording]